

# RESOURCES FOR THOSE ABUSED AS ADULTS BY CLERGY

SNAP Annual Conference | Breakout Session: Abuse of Vulnerable Adults | August 2, 2014

## TERMINOLOGY: CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE OF ADULTS

- **Clergy Sexual Misconduct:** Minister, priests, rabbis, or other clergypersons or religious leaders who make sexual advances or propositions to persons in the congregations they serve who are not their spouses or significant others. (Baylor University, School of Social Work, Clergy Sexual Misconduct Study, 2008)
- **Sexual Abuse:** When a person in a position of power such as a therapist, teacher, pastor, etc. sexually exploits a patient, counselee, vulnerable person, etc. in order to satisfy the abuser's needs. Sexual abuse includes any sexual activity—verbal, visual or physical, i.e., lewd remarks, pornography, fondling, sexual contact, etc. It is illegal. (The Hope of Survivors)
- **Abuse of Power:** Religious leaders are by definition community leaders who carry spiritual as well as organization and community leadership roles. They are expected to be compassionate, ethical, and moral leaders who hold the well-being of those they lead as a sacred trust. The differential of power between a religious leader and a congregant is like that of a physician and patient or counselor and client, although with the added dimension of sacred trust. Because of the power the leader holds and the attachment of congregants to their leaders, the congregant has much less power to say "no" to sexual overtures, rendering the concept of "consent" virtually meaningless. Any sexual relationship between a religious leader and a congregant is thus more accurately described as "abuse of power" rather than "affair," which implies mutual consent. (Baylor University, School of Social Work, Clergy Sexual Misconduct Study, 2008)
- **Offender:** The religious leader has committed an offense. The term "perpetrator" implies crime punishable by law. It is not a crime in 48 states, so at this point, the term "offender" is a more accurate term. (Baylor University, School of Social Work, Clergy Sexual Misconduct Study, 2008)
- **Survivor:** Those who are on the receiving end of the offending behavior will be referred to as the "survivor" or "offended." the "primary survivors," those who directly experience the sexual behavior of the offender, and the "secondary survivors," those who indirectly experience the leader's sexual misconduct, such as primary survivor's spouses, children, and fellow congregants. (Baylor University, School of Social Work, Clergy Sexual Misconduct Study, 2008)

## RESOURCES: UNDERSTANDING & HEALING

### Don't call it an affair. Call it abuse of power

Diana Garland, Baylor University, School of Social Work  
[www.apbnews.com](http://www.apbnews.com)

### Wolves in shepherds' clothing: Helping women survive clergy sexual abuse

Social Work and Christianity, 33(1), 1-35  
[www.baylor.edu/clergysexualmisconduct](http://www.baylor.edu/clergysexualmisconduct)

### The Silent Majority:

Adult Victims of Sexual Exploitation by Clergy  
[www.adultsabusedbyclergy.org](http://www.adultsabusedbyclergy.org)

### Sharon's Rose

[sharonsrose.org](http://sharonsrose.org)

### FaithTrust Institute

Go to Resources, Learn the Basics, Abuse by Clergy FAQs  
[www.faithtrustinstitute.org](http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org)

### Predatory Pastors

[predatorypastors.com](http://predatorypastors.com)

### Is Nothing Sacred?:

The Story of a Pastor, the Women He Sexually Abused, and the Congregation He Nearly Destroyed

Marie M. Fortune

Paperback, April 1, 2008 (available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))

### Male Survivor

[malesurvivor.org](http://malesurvivor.org)

### 1in6.org

For men abused as children

[1in6.org](http://1in6.org)

### Road to Recovery

For men abused as children and adults

[www.road-to-recovery.org](http://www.road-to-recovery.org)

### American Association of Pastoral Counselors

Code of Ethics

Go to About Us, Code of Ethics

[www.aapc.org](http://www.aapc.org)