

Actions to be taken by the coordinators*

of a Foyer de Charité when they are made aware of the sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric or lay person, who is a member of the Foyers de Charité.



In all cases, it is necessary to act quickly and to inform the Moderator Father of the work of the Foyers de Charité

IN THE EVENT OF SUSPICION



The first step is to verify the **likelihood, coherence and probability** of the information



Implementation of precautionary measures:

- or the potential victims
- for the witnesses
- for the Foyer member (father or layperson)
- uphold the course of justice



The Moderator Father and the Foyer coordinators may enlist a few people whose expertise is required for this process

IN THE EVENT THAT THE CLAIMS ARE CREDIBLE



The Foyer coordinators or the Moderator Father must ask:

- **the victim or his legal representatives to file a complaint** with the Public Prosecutor.
- **the Foyer member (father or lay person) to give himself** up to the civil authorities.



The Moderator Father must make sure that the justice system has been notified.



At this stage, the Moderator Father notifies the Ordinary (bishop) of the priest in question

WARN THE STATE AUTHORITIES

(if there is no confirmation of a complaint being lodged by the victim or a voluntary confession by the Foyer member)



If the Foyer coordinators are aware of specific facts, they must immediately refer the case to the public prosecutor.



If the victim is under the age of 18 when the Foyer coordinators become aware of the facts and that the latter are not specific but sufficiently worrying with regards to the child, they must report the matter of concern to the Cellule de Recueil et d'Information des Informations Préoccupantes (cell that records matters of concern) of the department, or equivalent.



Under the authority of French law, the canonical process for a cleric is suspended during the state's judicial process. When the judgement of the judicial authority is known, the bishop will send it to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

*they are the Foyer father, the lay coordinator and the president of the association of the Foyer concerned.

** see the list of contacts