

Our Commitment

Glastonbury Abbey recognizes that sexual misconduct causes profound harm to victims, their families, the Church, and the wider community. We acknowledge the lasting effects of such misconduct and are firmly committed to the care of those who have been harmed and to the prevention of abuse in every form.

We respond promptly and responsibly to all allegations of sexual misconduct. We comply fully with civil and canon law, report allegations as required, and offer compassionate assistance to those affected, including appropriate counseling and support.

The safety and well-being of children and vulnerable persons is our highest priority.



Where to Turn for Help

If you or someone you know believes that a monk has violated the standards outlined in this brochure, please report your concerns immediately.

All reports are handled with sensitivity, respect, and appropriate confidentiality.

Abbot

Father Thomas O'Connor OSB
Phone: 781-749-2155 ext. 223

Survivor Assistance Coordinator

Deirdre Hobson
Phone: 617-548-3242

If a child is in immediate danger, contact local law enforcement.

Glastonbury Abbey
16 Hull Street, Hingham, MA 02043
781-749-2155, x300
www.glastonburyabbey.org

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN & VULNERABLE PERSONS

Glastonbury Abbey

*Committed to Safety,
Dignity, & Healing*



Sexual Misconduct in a Ministerial Relationship

A ministerial relationship exists when a person receives pastoral care or spiritual guidance from a monk or other Church minister.

Sexual misconduct is a broad term that includes sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment refers to unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature in a Church or workplace setting. It may include:

- Unwanted advances or propositions
- Inappropriate comments, jokes, or gestures
- Displaying sexually suggestive materials
- Retaliation for refusing advances
- Offering benefits or opportunities in exchange for personal favors

Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation involves inappropriate behavior or contact between a monk and a person receiving pastoral care. Because of the trust and authority involved, such conduct is a serious violation of boundaries.

It is important to understand that responsibility for maintaining proper boundaries rests entirely with the monk or minister.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is any sexual behavior or contact involving a minor or a vulnerable adult. Such conduct is gravely wrong and will not be tolerated.

Sexual exploitation or abuse may include inappropriate physical contact, boundary violations, suggestive communication, or other actions that compromise the dignity and safety of another person.

Our Response & Prevention

Glastonbury Abbey treats every allegation with seriousness, care, and compassion.



A Survivor Assistance Coordinator is available to listen and assist with support and counseling referrals.



Allegations are promptly evaluated and investigated when appropriate.



The Abbey Review Board, composed of qualified professionals, advises the Abbot.



All suspected abuse of a minor is immediately reported to civil authorities, as required by law.

Any monk who has engaged in misconduct will be removed from ministry. Abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult results in permanent removal from ministerial responsibilities and strict safety measures.

To ensure a safe environment, the Abbey maintains careful screening, ongoing formation, and clear safeguarding policies.