

North Texas Conference Policies and Procedures for Resource Persons

A resource person is a lay professional volunteer made available by the CART Crisis Team to support persons who have experienced a trauma or boundary violation, and who may be considering filing a formal complaint. This service is made available to any person within the scope of the North Texas Conference who asks.

A resource person may be obtained by contacting the CART Crisis Team Coordinator who will assess the case and assign a Resource Person he/she sees as the best fit possible for the case. This may be done in confidentiality unless a formal complaint is filed, and then confidentiality of the Resource Person relationship with the person receiving services is made public.

The complainant may have an issue with clergy or another church leader. The complaint may or may not involve sexual misconduct. Often a person simply needs someone to listen to their story and help them decide the most appropriate and helpful steps to take for their healing, such as a referral to a counselor/therapist. Resource Persons stay within the boundaries of a support person (providing information, education, and listening) and do not at any time cross over to become a counselor or therapist.

The Duties of a Resource Person

- Listening and processing information with a person and helping to decide next steps
- Providing education, information, resources and referrals
- Provide an intake/assessment, monthly or quarterly reports (to be decided upon by the CART Crisis Coordinator on a case by case basis), and final report/incident closure- each to CART Crisis Coordinator in a timely manor

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If an allegation is made the duties also include:

- Confirm the aggrieved (or accused if helping a respondent) person understands the procedures for reporting allegation of sexual misconduct or other types of abuse
- Verifying and clarifying the allegation with the aggrieved (or accused) person
- Requesting that the aggrieved person prepare a written summary of the allegation and, if necessary, a formal complaint when requested to do so
- Helping the aggrieved person prepare the written summary and formal complaint (or response if accused)
- Once filing a complaint has been decided, inform the Crisis Team Coordinator so that the DS and CLD Director may be informed
- Accompanying aggrieved person to meetings help in connection with the Procedures of the North Texas Conference
- Calling to the attention of the Bishop, CLD Director, and CART Coordinator and any vindictive, hostile, or insensitive situations that arise during the process
- Giving feedback to the CART Coordinator regarding observations of helpful and hurtful situations arising during the process

(Note: If the respondent is clergy, a Resource Person may help with listening, counseling referrals, clarifying allegations, and understanding the complaint and judicial processes, but cannot accompany