



Diocese of Helena

Rights and Obligations of an Accused Person

Rights of an Accused Person

The rights of the accused during the investigation include:

1. The right to know the nature of the allegations
2. The right to defend against the allegations.
3. The right to due process.
4. The right not to incriminate her/himself.
5. The right to civil and in the case of clerics, canonical counsel.
6. The right to discretion in the conduct of the investigation and to have her/his good name protected during the investigation.
7. The right to know the results of the investigation.

Obligations of an Accused Person

The obligations of the accused during the investigation include:

1. The obligation not to interfere with the investigative process.
2. The obligation not to have contact with the complainant during the investigative process.
3. The obligation to observe any special provisions or restrictions imposed by the Bishop or his designee.