

CONFIDENTIAL

SIEG WIDERA

L.

6/29/76

Archbishop called - Mike Short, a therapist in Elkhorn, had called in to Bob Sampon -- Short is a counselor and now advocate for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She reported to Short that her son had been sexually molested by Fr. Widera while on a week-end fishing outing - Son is [REDACTED] age 13, an altar boy at parish. Archbishop suggested I call Widera first, then Short, assuring complainants that W. will be removed from parish and will receive in-patient treatment, if necessary.

Called Widera - gone - his day off - left message with Henke to call me. Tried to call his parental home - Otto Widera, Hawthorne Ave. - but an unpublished number - no. info. available.

7/30

Contacted Widera in P.M. - appointment tomorrow.

7/1

At Swan - 10:30 A.M. - Widera admitted that he made "a slip". He took boy fishing alone about 3 weeks ago. He had heard nothing about the incident. He does not know therapist. He has been seeing Leo Graham for past 3 years. He is "on probation" with the law - ends in August. He was apparently shook by this discovery and sought advice what to do. I informed him that he probably would be transferred and would need in-patient treatment. I would try to keep the lid on the thing, so no police record would be made. He went to his sister's at (421-0264) -- parent's number (762-8965) and informed her of his problem. I can call her to inform him to call me back. Parents will not be informed.

Immediately called Mike Short at Lakeland Counseling Center, Elkhorn, Box 29 - on County Rd. NN, 2 miles east of Elkhorn (1-723-5400, Ext. 238). - (Ron Barta also works there - Short was guided by him). Made app't to meet Short [REDACTED] on Thursday, July 8 at 2 P.M. at Elkhorn. Short said [REDACTED] didn't know what to do after she pulled this info. out of the boy. Son must have manifested some trauma after the experience. She called Short. He feels that boy needs some help to re-establish spiritual values and attitudes toward Church and priests. [REDACTED] had not gone to police. She is separated from husband and apparently feared reprisals from Church if she would go to police. She does not want priests from parish to counsel the boy. Short feels that alcohol may be Widera's basic problem. He will contact [REDACTED] and convince her not to act with police, if Church removes W. from parish, and gets him help, as well as counsels the boy.

Widera called back - gave him above info. He asked what he should do. I suggested no further action at this time, but he should prepare to be re-assigned - which is probably the Archbishop's recommendation. Will call Widera immediately after Thurs. meeting - he will meet me in Elkhorn.

Called and left above information with Ralph F. for the Archbishop.

EX101

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2.

7/7

Leo Graham called - had received note from Fr.W. saying that he would not be in for appointment because he would be going to St.Vincent Hospital, etc.

- Leo did not know what had happened but was greatly concerned that if Fr.W. leaves state during this probationary period, he could be picked up and immediately sent to prison without any further court trial. Graham is the de facto probationary officer. Has seen Widera weekly for past 3 years. Graham feels that if Fr.Widers must be sent to hospitalization, it must be within State (at least during next 60 days)- Leo doubts value of in-patient treatment however. If [redacted] will not approach police, Graham suggests that Fr.W. remain in Delavan - at least temporarily. He suggests that I offer services of the Archdiocese for a one shot evaluation of the boy (to determine if there be any traumatic damages (usually in these cases, there is not). Graham at first was disturbed that his patient was being sent out of State without consultation with Leo. I explained that nothing was finalized yet - and in view of his probationary situation, he probably would not be sent. (If necessary, Graham would suggest Milw. Sanitarium). I also explained that I was following Archbishop's agenda = contact, Widera, then Short, then mother, etc.

Graham asked me to report back to him after Conference with Short, mother, etc. Discussed briefly with him the Henke-Vojtik situation. Graham feels if Widera goes, this above relationship will deteriorate. Graham feels that Widera is non-communicative, and willing to agree to anything and self-destructive (not suicidal, however). Graham feels that "one slip" in 3 years is not too bad a track record.

7/8

Graham called - Probation officer is actually a member of his parish - attends W's Mass regularly. If W. is moved out of the State, P. officer will ask "Why?" Also, if W. is moved before probation period is over, P.O. will find out the reason. Graham does not know the legal consequences if P.O. finds out post hoc what happened pre-hoc - doesn't know what attorney to call.

Went to Lakeland Counseling Center at Elkhorn - met Mike Short, [redacted] - heard [redacted] story - mature lad of 10 years - incident happened in lake while swimming - also next day in sacristy before Mass.

- [redacted] was not seeking hospitalization - only that Fr.W. be moved from parish - she doesn't want to see him
- otherwise she will take her children out of School
- she understands that Fr.W. is sick but was greatly disillusioned by his conduct - she agreed to bring [redacted] to Leo Graham for an evaluation to see if any traumatic effects. No cost to her. I tried to help the boy sort through his feelings. I indicated that

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3.

7/8 = cont'd.

I had spoken to Leo Graham re:counseling for Fr. W. (I did not reveal that Fr. W. had been seeing him for 3 yrs. already)

Then called Fr. W. to come to Elkhorn restaurant.

- told him to re-schedule his appointments with Graham
- find himself a Spiritual director
- anticipate moving from Delavan after his probation is over
- not to tell Fr. Henke at this time
- stay away from [REDACTED]
- also stay away from another boy he is seen with frequently

7/9

Reported to Archbishop. He agreed that Fr. W. should continue with Graham - should not be moved out of State for hospitalization - will move Fr. W. after probation period is over (I shall find out when from Graham). He said I can call Paul Noelke Co. attorneys [REDACTED]

ATTORNEY/CLIENT  
PRIVILEGE

7/12

Leo Graham-  
(964-7520)  
2939 N. Oakland

Called Graham - gave him above report - he does not know exact day of probation termination: but presumes it to be mid-August - he is concerned that Widera get a good spot without pressures as next assignment - wishes me to influence Personnel Board at that time - Graham will call Personnel Board, too, if necessary.

- He will call [REDACTED] and make an appointment for [REDACTED], etc.

7/26

Short called - [REDACTED] had heard from no-one I told him I had contacted Graham and Archbishop  
-Widera will probably not be moved till after Labor Day because of replacement problems  
-he should give this info. to [REDACTED]

I called Graham's office - on vacation till the 10th - his secretary has been trying to reach [REDACTED] to make an appointment with her and boy - she will continue to try to reach her to set up the appointment.

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4.

8/20

- Graham called - he had seen [REDACTED] and son-
- a) no permanent damage to son - spent 3 hrs. with mother.
  - b) Waldbauer called - Henke had called him and wanted Widera removed - he had learned about incident from other people - then he asked [REDACTED] about it. Waldbauer agreed to get supply help for the parish.
  - c) Called Graham - Parole terminated Aug. 16th, he learned from lawyer.
  - d) Called Henke and Widera - they agreed that W. would go "on vacation" (California!) as soon as Waldbauer would find supply help. Then he would be transferred. W. should tell people only that he's going on vacation.
  - e) Called Waldbauer - he will hunt - has not alerted Board to this case - in agreement with above arrangements.

8/23

Told Archbishop of the above developments.

9/27

Approached Esser about above - the Personnel Board has heard nothing from anyone - Archbishop has not spoken to Personnel Board about this matter

- however, Paul knew that Widera's father had been to Delavan and moved out Siegfried's belongings
- Paul would have problem in conscience to re-assign Siegfried- When? and should they really - in view of Widera's record???

Graham called - Widera calls him every week to 10 days from Calif. - he is living with his brother - dad is very incensed (disowning Sieg?) about matter - Graham said Siegfried said that maybe he should stay in California and get himself a job (outside ministry). Graham wondered if this should be the direction of counsel. I reluctantly agreed - esp. in view of Esser's above comments. Graham will call Esser and discuss this with him. I explained that if he sought ministry out there I would feel obliged to send reports to the diocese in which he works.

1/77

Waldbauer gave me address of Widera in Calif. - called Graham

- but he has not heard from Widera recently - Widera was in to see Personnel Board recently.

1/11/77

Met Widera for lunch in L.A. He will work in Orange diocese

- showed me letter of app't. - confused with expression "In hospitality". He was concerned about 4 mo. back pay, Blue Cross, Pension Fund
- Said that I would confer with Sampon when I return - cf letter 1/7