



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DISCLOSURE OF NAMES OF CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS BROTHERS AND SISTERS FOR WHOM ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR HAVE BEEN ADMITTED, ESTABLISHED OR DETERMINED TO BE CREDIBLE

1. *Why are you publishing this list?*

This disclosure is being made in the interest of further transparency and accountability, and to continue to encourage victim survivors of sexual abuse by those working on behalf of the Church to come forward.

2. *Who made the decision to publish the list?*

The decision was made by Archbishop Sartain after consultation with and recommendation by the Archdiocesan Review Board.

3. *How was the list developed?*

To identify those archdiocesan clergy and religious men and women who served or were known to have resided in the Archdiocese of Seattle for whom allegations of sexual abuse of minors were admitted, established or determined to be credible, the archdiocese hired Dr. Kathleen McChesney and her firm, Kinsale Management Consulting, to conduct an independent review of Archdiocesan files. The names of those identified in this review were then provided to the Archdiocesan Review Board (member information may be found at the following link: www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP/About.aspx) and to Archbishop Sartain who approved the publication of the names set forth in this disclosure.

4. *Does the published list contain all of the names of clergy and religious brothers and sisters that Kinsale Management and the Archdiocesan Review Board determined were credible?*

Yes.

5. *How does the archdiocese respond to those persons making allegations of child sexual abuse by Church personnel?*

In every case, the archdiocese offers to pay for counseling for the person making the allegation, as well as for family members, if it is desired. The archdiocese has paid approximately \$580,000

for counseling over the last 10 years. In addition, in every case, the archbishop offers a pastoral meeting to apologize on behalf of the church and to assist in the healing process.

6. *What does the term “determined to be credible” mean?*

When an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by Church personnel is received, the first step is to determine whether the incident(s) could have taken place as described. For example, if an allegation is received that a priest abused a minor in Vancouver in 1950, but that priest never served in Vancouver and was not ordained until 1960, this particular allegation could not be accurate. If, on the other hand, the incident(s) could have taken place as described, the Archdiocesan Review Board, whose members act as independent advisors to the archbishop, makes a determination as to whether the accusation is credible. In arriving at this determination, they take into account a number of factors including whether there are similar allegations, a credible statement of the complainant, corroborating evidence or testimony, and the accused’s admission of guilt, if applicable.

7. *In addition to offering pastoral care and payment for counseling, what other steps does the archdiocese take when an allegation of abuse of a minor is received?*

If the allegation has a semblance of truth, law enforcement is notified and the accused is placed on administrative leave. The archdiocese cooperates fully with any law enforcement investigation. At the conclusion of any law enforcement investigation, the archdiocese may also hire an independent investigator to conduct a separate investigation (unless the allegation has already been established by law enforcement or admitted by the accused). The results of the investigation(s) are presented to the Archdiocesan Review Board for a determination of the credibility of the allegation and to make a recommendation to the Archbishop. The Archbishop arrives at a decision based upon the investigation and the Board’s recommendation. If the allegation is determined to be credible, the accused is removed permanently from ministry. If the accused is a priest, he is placed on permanent prayer and penance or laicized in a process through the Vatican.

8. *What does “permanent prayer and penance” status mean?*

A priest is placed on permanent prayer and penance through a canonical process authorized by the Vatican. This status applies to a priest permanently removed from all public ministry while still remaining a priest. He is not permitted to administer sacraments, wear clerical attire, or present himself publicly as a priest. He is asked to pray for healing and to do penance on behalf of those who have been abused. A priest in this category is regularly visited by a compliance monitor with professional expertise in monitoring of this type.

9. *What does “laicized” mean?*

A “laicized” priest or deacon has been removed from the clerical state and returned to the status of a lay person. He is no longer considered to be a priest or deacon. “Laicization” is a canonical process through the Vatican.

10. *What is the definition of a minor for the purposes of this list?*

Anyone under the age of 18.

11. *Do individuals on this list receive financial support?*

Yes, some of the individuals on this list receive some financial support from the archdiocese. Priests and laicized priests of the archdiocese who have earned a pension are legally entitled to those benefits. Archdiocesan priests on permanent prayer and penance status are also included in the priest health plan. Individuals on this list who are not, or were not, priests of the archdiocese do not receive any financial support from the archdiocese.

12. *How much has the archdiocese paid out in settlements, and where has that money come from?*

Since the late 1980's, approximately \$74 million has been paid out in settlements for 392 claims of sexual abuse of minors. Settlements that were made directly with survivors, as well as those resulting from litigation, are included in this number. These payments have come from insurance carriers, the archdiocese's self-insurance plan, and the sale of archdiocesan held property.

13. *What steps has the archdiocese taken to prevent sexual abuse of minors by church personnel?*

The Archdiocese of Seattle has a Safe Environment Program with policies and procedures designed to prevent and recognize signs of sexual abuse of minors (www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP). The archdiocese has been conducting criminal background checks of clergy, religious, and lay employees and volunteers who have ongoing unsupervised access to minors through church activities since 1989. Since 1990, these individuals have also been required to undergo training to recognize and respond to potential signs of sexual abuse of minors.