

**Scroll down to next page to view exhibit.**

NO. CV 96 0335986 S

JEFFREY R. KNECHT : SUPERIOR COURT

VS. : FAIRFIELD J.D.

BRIDGEPORT ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESAN CORPORATION, ET AL : MAY 30, 1997

**AFFIDAVIT OF BISHOP WALTER W. CURTIS**

Walter W. Curtis of Trumbull, Connecticut, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. That I am more than twenty-one years of age and believe in the obligations of an oath;
2. That between November 20, 1961 and December 14, 1988, I served as the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport which is also known as the Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation and which is one of the defendants in the above-referenced civil action;
3. That in my capacity as the Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport between November 20, 1961 and my retirement on December 14, 1988, I was both the President and the Chief Officer of the Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation, and it was my exclusive duty to provide for the appointment and ecclesiastical-licensing of all priests who served on the staffs of all local Roman Catholic parish churches within the Diocese's territorial limits which are confined to Fairfield County within the State of Connecticut;
4. That when I became the Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport during November 1961, the Reverend Walter Philip Coleman (hereinafter-referenced as "Father Coleman") was then a young priest who was then serving as an assistant pastor on the staff of the St. Teresa Parish

Church in Trumbull and who, about 2-½ years previously on May 23, 1959, had been ordained a priest for service in the Diocese of Bridgeport;

5. That as a result of his having been ordained a priest for service in the Diocese of Bridgeport on May 23, 1959, Father Coleman had thereby been commissioned and licensed to engage in the ministry activities of a Roman Catholic priest within the Diocese of Bridgeport which includes all local Roman Catholic parish churches and other Roman Catholic institutions within Fairfield County, and I continued to license him to engage in those ministry activities;

6. That in August 1966, I appointed Father Coleman to serve as an assistant pastor on the staff of the St. Maurice Parish Church in the Glenbrook section of Stamford, as evidenced by my Vicar General Msgr. Kearney's letter of appointment of August 26, 1966 to Father Coleman, a photocopy of which has been marked as Exhibit A and attached hereto;

7. That between August 1968 and January 1976, I appointed Father Coleman to serve on the staffs of five other local parish churches, as evidenced by my five letters of appointment to him, photocopies of which have been marked as Exhibits B, C, D, E and F respectively and attached hereto;

8. That in June 1982, after receiving Father Coleman's written resignation from his then current position as the Pastor of the St. Patrick Parish Church of Bridgeport, as evidenced by his June 14, 1982 dated letter to me, a photocopy of which has been marked as Exhibit G and attached hereto, I appointed Father Coleman to serve as the Spiritual Director of Immaculate

High School in Danbury and to be a priest in residence at the St. Joseph Parish Church in Brookfield, as evidenced by my June 17, 1982 dated letter to him, a photocopy of which has been marked Exhibit H and attached hereto;

9. That throughout all of Father Coleman's service as a priest within the Diocese of Bridgeport between my becoming the Bishop of the Diocese in November 1961 and my above-referenced retirement in December 1988, my belief, as the Chief Officer of the Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation, was that Father Coleman, before his ordination, had received good and effective seminary training, at St. Mary's Seminary of Baltimore, Maryland, to be a priest, and after his ordination, was receiving good and effective priestly-mentor guidance and supervision from each of the various pastors under whom I had appointed him to serve, as evidenced by the attached Exhibits A, B, C, D and E respectively, prior to January 8, 1976, when I first appointed him to be the Pastor in charge of the Saint Patrick Parish Church, as evidenced by Exhibit F attached hereto;

10. That at no time while I served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport between November 20, 1961 and December 14, 1988, did I personally or the Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation, of which I was the Chief Officer, ever have any reason to know, to suspect or to believe Father Coleman to have engaged in any sexual activity of any kind;

11. That during April of 1985, the Diocese, through my Vicar for Clergy Msgr. Andrew Cusack, did learn that Father Coleman had become involved in the financial affairs of a woman

