

**AFFIDAVIT OF MIKE DALTON**

STATE OF IOWA            )  
                                      ) ss:  
COUNTY OF Cedar        )

I, Mike Dalton, first being duly sworn under oath, states as follows:

1. In 1961, I moved to Iowa City. I was beginning my sophomore year and entered Regina High School that fall.

2. While a student at Regina High School, Father Soens was the priest and principal of Regina. I considered and respected him to be a trusted authority figure. My relationship with him as a student was based on trust and confidence in him as a spiritual, moral, temporal and secular authority figure.

3. About one month after my enrollment, I was summoned to Father Soens' office. I stood before his desk while he made small talk with me. Father Soens then proceeded to come around the desk on his wheeled chair, trap my leg with his legs and run his hand up my leg and fondled my genitals.

4. On other occasions Father Soens would come up behind me in the hallway, reach over my shoulders and pinch both of my nipples. I believe that teachers and other adult authority figures in the school should have known of his improper conduct.

5. I was a very shy and serious young man at that point in my life. These incidents bothered me terribly.



6. In the late 1990's, while visiting my uncle who lived in the Sioux City Diocese, I told him about my experiences with the Bishop of the Sioux City Diocese, Bishop Lawrence Soens. My uncle was shocked and expressed his sorrow.

7. In 2002, when that same uncle, who was a father figure to me, was dying in a hospital in Sioux City, Bishop Lawrence Soens came to the hospital to give him the last rites of the Catholic Church. My uncle told his sons at that time that Bishop Soens had abused me.

8. My cousins shared that information with me at my uncle's funeral. I was distressed that my beloved uncle had to die knowing he received the last rites from a pedophile priest. I determined then and there that I would report him to the Davenport Diocese.

9. While attending mass at the Newman Center in Iowa City, Father Fitzpatrick announced there were pamphlets in the rear of the church that detailed policies and procedures for reporting abuse to the Diocese. I picked one up and went home and wrote my letter to the Bishop of the Diocese of Davenport.

10. It was about a month before I had a response. On September 2, 2003, Vicar Irene Loftus and another Diocese of Davenport staff member came to visit me in my home. They were kind and understanding and it was good to finally tell someone what had happened. I felt they believed me.

11. Several months went by and I finally e-mailed Irene Loftus asking what had happened with the investigation. Irene sent me a message saying the matter involved two Dioceses and the Apostolic Nuncio and asked for my patience. She also said Bishop Franklin invited me to meet with him.

12. Around Thanksgiving, Irene Loftus called me and said the investigators wanted to know where my uncle received the last rites and what my wife's maiden name was. She told me that Bishop Franklin had gone to Sioux City and met with Bishop Soens and that Bishop Soens "had no recollection of the incident".

13. That Christmas, for the first time, I told my brother who is a year younger what had happened and Soens' response. He then told me that he, too, had the same thing happen to him. Up until then, I thought I was the only one Bishop Soens had fondled.

14. In January, 2004, I made the appointment with Bishop Franklin and met with him for over two hours. I felt I had a sympathetic ear and he assured me that my uncle did receive all of the graces of the sacrament in spite of the person who administered it. Bishop Franklin also said Bishop Soens' health was failing. Months went by with no further word.

15. In April, I received a request to sign a confidentiality statement with the Diocese, but I refused to do so.


16. When I had heard nothing by late August, I began to feel I was being stalled in the hopes that Bishop Soens would die before this matter came to light, so I decided to elevate my complaint to a monetary claim. I had an answer in a day.

17. I determined the monetary amount by estimating what had been my portion of our contributions to the Church over the years and then asking for a percentage of that. I felt it was a just refund on my investment.

Further, Affiant sayeth not.

  
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MIKE DALTON

Subscribed and sworn to before  
me this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2006.

  
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Notary Public in and for  
the State of Iowa

