

OVERVIEW

000628

Redacted April 2014  
TMJA  
Released April 2014

This is a case of clergy sexual abuse against a young boy which took place within the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Illinois between 1971-1973. This child was abused by Father James Burnett. The abuse began with [REDACTED] in 1971 when [REDACTED] was 9 to 10 years old. [REDACTED] mother was a devout woman of the Catholic faith. The family, therefore, entrusted their child to Father Burnett while Mr. [REDACTED] was a student at St. [REDACTED] Parish School in [REDACTED] Illinois.

As a result of the abuse by Fr. Burnett, Mr. [REDACTED] has had continued difficulties that he is attempting to overcome. This abuse, suffered as a young boy, included extensive inappropriate touching, rubbing, groping and fondling of the genital area to masturbate the victim, and fellatio. As a result, [REDACTED] suffered physical pain as well as severe and emotional damage to his psychological and psychiatric health, severe pain and mental anguish, past and future lost time and wages. He is unable to carry on an intimate relationship and feels guilt, shame and embarrassment. He is afraid employers/co-workers will find out about the abuse, therefore increasing his feelings of guilt, shame and embarrassment. Another aspect of the injuries sustained by [REDACTED] is his loss of faith and lack of any religious/spiritual relationship in his life. He has lost his trust in the Church. He also will incur the obligation to spend large sums of money for medical, psychological and psychiatric expenses necessary to ease the pain and attempt to heal his injuries.

**FACTS**

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Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Family: [REDACTED]

Present Occupation: [REDACTED]

Identity of Abuser: Fr. James Burnett

Approximate Age at Time: 9-10 years old

Nature of Abuse: Inappropriate touching, rubbing, groping and fondling of the genital area to masturbate the victim, and fellatio

Location of Abuse: St. [REDACTED] Parish, [REDACTED], Illinois

**Details of Abuse:**

The sexual abuse of my client took place in Fr. Burnett's office at the rectory of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bensenville, Illinois. [REDACTED] was approximately 9 or 12 years old when the abuse by Fr. Burnett began. While on school recess and lunch and/or subsequent to school prayer, Fr. Burnett would ask Mr. [REDACTED] to go into his office at the rectory. Once behind closed doors, Fr. Burnett would proceed to molest Mr. [REDACTED] by touching him inappropriately, rubbing, groping and fondling Mr. [REDACTED] genital area in order to masturbate him, Father Burnett forced him to perform fellatio.

Fr. Burnett manipulated Mr. [REDACTED] emotions to gain control and obedience over him, thus ensuring his silence and creating an environment of confusion, guilt, shame and other disorders, so that he could exploit the power imbalance between the priest and minor parishioner for his own personal gain.

DAMAGES

000630

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Another aspect of the injuries sustained by [REDACTED] is his loss of faith and lack of any religious/spiritual relationship in his life. He has lost his trust in the Church. He has lost trust in his dealings with others.