

CANONICAL TRIALS
and
ADMINISTRATIVE-SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS

Cases involving allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by priest or deacon:

- Complaint brought to Detroit archdiocese
- Civil authorities notified
- Determination of credibility by Review Board; recommendation to cardinal-archbishop
- Ministry restricted pending resolution

As written, the provisions of the *Dallas Charter* and *The Essential Norms* to permanently remove a priest from ministry are to be utilized when the sexual abuse of a minor has occurred, certified either through an admission from the priest himself or by a determination that can be proven to a canonical standard.

To achieve that standard, the cardinal-archbishop determines that the information/accusation brought to him has what Church law precisely describes as a “semblance of truth” that a canonical crime has been committed. He then prepares and sends his preliminary investigations to the Vatican— the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF)— which, in turn, decides how to proceed at the local level.

- Canonical trial
- Administrative-Summary Proceeding
- Dismissal from the clerical state

Findings of the 3 judge panel (trial) and the administrative-summary decrees of the cardinal-archbishop are sent to CDF for confirmation.

A crime under Church law has a penalty attached.

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