

Appendix A1.1.7
RESEARCH PARTICIPATION STATEMENT
Catholic Bishops' Study

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

To be retained by the study participant.

This letter explains the purpose of the work you have been asked to do for the Catholic Bishops' Study, the paramount importance we give to maintaining the confidentiality of those persons you will read about in the church or diocesan files, and your right to receive counselling if, as a result of this work, you become distressed or uncomfortable. If you wish to discontinue the work, you have the right to withdraw from the project and another person will be chosen to complete the work.

Purpose

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, issued by the Conference of Catholic Bishops in June of 2002, calls for the promotion of healing and reconciliation within the Catholic Church in the United States, sets out a basis for an effective response to future allegations of abuse and establishes procedures for accountability for church leaders. A significant part of this last commitment is Article 9, which reads:

The work of the Office for Child and Youth Protection will be assisted and monitored by a Review Board, including priests, appointed by the Conference President and reporting directly to him. The Board will approve the annual report of the implementation of this Charter in each of our dioceses/eparchies, as well as any recommendations that emerge from this review, before the report is submitted to the President of the Conference and published. To understand the problem more fully and to enhance the effectiveness of our future response, the National Review Board will commission a comprehensive study of the causes and context of the current crisis. The Board will also commission a descriptive study, with the full cooperation of our diocese/eparchies, of the nature and scope of the problem within the Catholic Church in the United States, including such data as statistics on perpetrators and victims.

This project is the descriptive study, and its importance to the Catholic Church and to the larger research community cannot be overstated.

Confidentiality

All information that you report will remain completely confidential. It is of paramount importance that you not make any notation of any name or other personal information on the survey instruments as you complete them, or make any mention to anyone of any person whose name you read in a file while doing this work.

Specifically, you are asked to take particular care to ensure that:

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- Any and all notes or scratch paper that you use to complete the work be destroyed at the end of each day.
- That you refrain from any discussion of the work with any person outside of the church or anyone who does not already have access to the files of alleged abusers.
- That if you call the researchers for assistance you prepare to ask your questions of them without using any names or other personal information.
- That no names are included in any material sent to the Review Board.
- That no identifying information that could link an individual to the information on a survey instrument be included when the material is sent to the Review Board.
- That completed surveys be placed first in one envelope with no external markings, then in another envelope for mailing to the Review Board.
- That you will not discuss the work you have done on this research study either during or after its completion.

Strict adherence to the principles of confidentiality will help ensure the quality of the results.

Counseling

There is a possibility that the materials you will be reviewing in the files will give rise to feelings of unhappiness, distress, embarrassment or worry. Should you find that this work becomes difficult to do or makes you sad or angry, and you wish to talk to a professional who is trained as a counsellor, you are asked to speak to the head bishop of your diocese immediately. He will remove you from this project and refer you to a counsellor to speak to about your feelings of distress.

If you ask that the responsibility for this work be given to another person, your request will be honoured.

If you understand and agree to all of the above information, please sign and date this form.

Name (written) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

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AFFIRMATION

I have read the Research Participation Statement and understand each of its sections. I confirm that I understand both the purpose of and the procedures for this work

I am committed to the principles of confidentiality and the protection of human subjects and will adhere to both the spirit and the letter of what I have been asked to do to protect the privacy of the persons whose information is included in the files.

I affirm that I will seek assistance should I come to feel distressed by this work.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____