



## Revision to the Policy for the Protection of Children

Promulgated by the Diocese of Erie  
Effective July 1, 2018

### INTRODUCTION

First and foremost, the Diocese of Erie apologizes for the abuse of children caused by priests or other employees. Such conduct is reprehensible. Any efforts to conceal such conduct are also reprehensible. The Diocese of Erie recognizes its responsibility and is committed to regaining the trust of not only its parishioners but of all people.

We will shine light on the abuses of the past and be transparent in our decisions today. We will continue to work with law enforcement to ensure that justice is done. We want to specifically acknowledge and apologize to the courageous and resilient survivors and witnesses whose voices previously were unheard or silenced. We recognize the Pennsylvania State Attorney General, who — working with a statewide grand jury — gave these people a voice. They are to be commended for their courage.

- [Statement from the Communications Office](#)
- [Statement from Bishop Lawrence T. Persico](#)

### KEY UPDATES

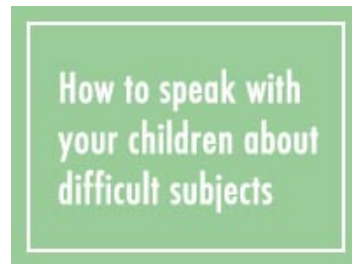
Apologies, however, are not enough. The Diocese of Erie has been developing policies, procedures, and training programs since the 1980s specifically designed to protect the most vulnerable people in our society from people that would do them harm. This web page is part of a larger program to ensure such protection. The Diocese of Erie is working with law enforcement, medical experts, survivor support groups, compliance experts, and academia to ensure that its efforts are of the highest quality when it comes to maintaining a safe environment for our children and other vulnerable populations. [The most recent version of our Child Protection Policy may be found here.](#)



Our recent updates include:

- An expansion of the scope of the abuse sought to be prevented to include sexual, physical, emotional, and neglectful abuse;
- Inclusion of numerous detailed examples and red flags in both our policy and training materials to educate people on how to recognize abuse or unsafe situations;
- Reliance by the diocese on independent, professional investigators and lawyers to ensure the best possibility of arriving at the truth concerning each allegation, while respecting the rights of all and offering full cooperation with law enforcement; and
- The creation of a transparent and centralized system to encourage abuse reporting, screen personnel, document investigative findings, and inform the community about abuse-related employment or volunteerism decisions.

On this last point, we created this website to publicize the names of individuals who were previously employed by (or volunteered for or considered by) the Diocese of Erie or any related agency, but are now are prohibited from such employment (or volunteerism). Any employer, whether public or private — as well as anyone supervising volunteers — may contact the Diocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY) to request a “clearance” from the OPCY for a job applicant or volunteer in terms of child protection. The granting of such a clearance would indicate that the OPCY knows of no record that gives reason to exercise caution regarding that individual around children.



The Diocese of Erie itself — as well as any school, parish, or agency within the diocese — MUST receive such a clearance before hiring an employee or accepting any volunteer for a position that brings that individual into contact with children (or secondary-school students or vulnerable adults).

## PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Some of the names on the list may be recognizable as a result of a criminal conviction or other public report. Other names are being disclosed publicly for the first time. Some people on this list cannot be convicted of a crime because of the passage of time, legal technicalities, their present whereabouts or mental state, or other factors; nonetheless, these people will not be accepted as employees or volunteers by the Diocese of Erie. **Every person named on this list was credibly accused of actions that, in the diocese’s judgment, disqualify that person from working with children. Such actions could include the use of child pornography, furnishing pornography to minors, corruption of minors, violating a child-protection policy, failure to prevent abuse that they knew to be happening, and — in some cases — direct physical sexual abuse or sexual assault of minors.** Allegations were corroborated by secular legal proceedings, canon law proceedings, self-admission by the individual, or threshold evidence (as defined in the Child Protection Policy). None of the priests listed are permitted to engage in any form of public ministry or to present themselves publicly as priests. Individuals are listed with their current (in the case of priests) or last known (in the case of laypersons) status with the Diocese of Erie or any of the schools or agencies within the diocese.

The individuals on this list are believed to be alive and living in the locations noted:

- Former Fr. Michael J. Amy — Niceville, Florida  
Laicized (removed from ministry and later voluntarily resigned from the clergy)
- Fr. Michael G. Barletta — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Fr. Robert F. Bower — Edinboro, Pennsylvania  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Andre C. Butler — Rosedale, New York  
Former lay agency employee
- Former Fr. Dennis C. Chludzinski — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Laicized
- Megan E. Fecko — Cleveland, Ohio  
Former lay teacher
- Kevin J. Feyas — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Former lay teacher and parish musician
- Former Fr. Chester J. Gawronski — Sahuarita, Arizona  
Dismissed from the clergy
- Timothy G. Hanson, Sr. — North East, Pennsylvania  
Layman prohibited from volunteer work or entering school property
- Fr. Stephen E. Jeselnick — Colorado Springs, Colorado  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Former Fr. Gary L. Ketcham — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Laicized
- Fr. Thaddeus T. Kondzielski — Waterford, Pennsylvania  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Kevin S. Kulhanek — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Former lay school volunteer
- Fr. Salvatore P. Luzzi — Bradford, Pennsylvania  
Forbidden to function as a priest

- Eve Minter (née Spangler) — Henrico, Virginia  
Former lay teacher
- David Montgomery — Otisville, New York (*in federal prison until 2041*)  
Former lay teacher
- Fr. Leon T. Muroski — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Denise J. (née Geitner) Myers (Meyer) — Greensburg, Pennsylvania  
Former lay teacher
- Hattie B. Nichols — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Former lay agency employee
- Philip J. Pochatko — Subiaco, Arkansas  
Former lay school teacher
- Brian J. Radachy — Elkton, Ohio (*in federal prison until 2024*)  
Former lay school teacher
- Former Fr. Samuel B. Slocum — Bradford, Pennsylvania  
Dismissed from the clergy
- Former Fr. Thomas E. Smith — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Dismissed from the clergy
- Fr. Daniel J. Taylor — Tucson, Arizona  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Ron Thomsen — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Former lay volunteer
- Dennis E. Vickery — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Former lay teacher
- Joseph M. Votino — Masury, Ohio  
Former lay teacher/coach
- Craig T. Ward — Erie, Pennsylvania  
Former lay agency employee

Should an employer have a need for further information about the facts underlying the inclusion of any person on this list, please contact the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth at [childprotection@eriercd.org](mailto:childprotection@eriercd.org). This list will be updated as necessary.

Additionally, we recognize that some of the individuals who failed our children and other vulnerable populations are now deceased. The list below names those individuals who — but for their death — would be on the above list of people prohibited from employment. In furnishing the names of these deceased individuals, the diocese wishes to acknowledge those victims/survivors who were harmed by their actions, to encourage any other victims/survivors to come forward who have not already done so, and to reaffirm the commitment of the diocese to offer support and assistance to victims/survivors of abuse. Individuals are listed with their current (in the case of priests) or last known (in the case of laypersons) status with the Diocese of Erie or any of the schools or agencies within the diocese.

- Fr. Donald C. Bolton, CSSR  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Fr. Edmund S. Borycz, OFM  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Msgr. Bonaventure M. Ciufoli  
Returned to Italy
- Fr. Donald J. Cooper  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- William (Bill) Couse  
Former lay school employee
- Fr. David V. Dobrowolski  
Was able to function (abuse reported after his death)

- William P. Garvey  
Former lay teacher/coach (later served as college president)
- Fr. Herbert G. Gloekler  
Was able to function (abuse reported after his death)
- Fr. Robert E. Hannon  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Fr. Joseph W. Jerge  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Fr. Edward W. Jungquist  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Fr. Thomas C. Kelley  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Fr. Gerard (Gerald, Gerry) H. Krebs  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Fr. Jerry Kucan, OFM  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Msgr. Daniel Martin  
Restricted from ministry (abuse reported during retirement/physical-health-leave and later, after death)
- Fr. Joseph F. Meisinger  
Was able to function (abuse reported after his death)
- Fr. John L. Murray  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Fr. Giles L. Nealen, OSB  
Was unable to function (was already confined to infirmary when abuse was reported)
- Fr. John A. Piatkowski  
Believed to have died in 1970 with ability to function (records incomplete from relevant time periods)
- Former Fr. William F. Presley  
Dismissed from the clergy
- Fr. John P. Schanz  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Fr. Charles A. Sheets, Jr.  
Forbidden to function as a priest
- Bishop Alfred M. Watson  
Bishop of Erie (failed to act to stop abuse which was credibly reported to him)

We also find it important to recognize the survivors who have reported abuse, even when the report cannot be investigated fully. Allegations of abuse from decades ago often can be neither proved nor disproved due to a lack of living witnesses or corroborating evidence. The Diocese of Erie is profoundly grateful for the courage demonstrated by the individuals that have come forward to make these allegations known but regrets that — with no way to corroborate these allegations — they cannot be listed here. Nonetheless, the Diocese of Erie always welcomes any additional information that can shed light on past cases of abuse.

Three individuals are currently under investigation by law enforcement (and each is presumed innocent unless proved otherwise):

- Fr. Sean P. Kerins — Naples, Florida
- Fr. David L. Poulson — Oil City, Pennsylvania
- John (Jack) E. Tome — *location unknown (last known to be in Columbia, Maryland)*

Finally, in some cases, reports were made out of an abundance of caution rather than because of specific abuse that was perpetrated. In these cases, referrals are made to appropriate law-enforcement agencies, as well as analyzed by the Diocese of Erie's investigators. Where both secular law enforcement and diocesan investigators concluded that a report is unfounded, the names of the reported individuals involved will not be publicized.

## REPORTING ABUSE

*Pastoral care and compassion for victims, as well as the protection of children and vulnerable adults, is a top priority of the Diocese of Erie. The diocese encourages anyone who has experienced sexual abuse or misconduct*

*by a member of the clergy or any employee or volunteer of the church to contact law enforcement. To report abuse to the independent investigators retained by the Diocese of Erie, email [ErieRCD@KLGates.com](mailto:ErieRCD@KLGates.com). In addition, victims or concerned individuals can report abuse to ChildLine, an outreach of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, by calling 800-932-0313. The line is open 24/7, and callers may choose to remain anonymous. Victims also are welcome to contact the diocese directly to report abuse at 814.451.1543. Counseling assistance is available for victims and/or their families through the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, Dr. Robert Nelsen, who can be reached at 814.451.1521.*

Numerous reports also are made in accordance with the law regarding situations where reason to suspect abuse exists but the perpetrator is not connected to the diocese. For instance, if a parent abuses a child, a Catholic school teacher is required to report that abuse. Those cases are investigated and prosecuted as appropriate, but the names of people involved will not be made public on this website. The federal sex-offender registry may be searched [here](#), and the Pennsylvania sex-offender registry may be searched [here](#). Any person who uses the information contained on this website or linked websites to threaten, intimidate, or harass a listed individual or his/her family — or who otherwise misuses this information — may be subject to criminal prosecution or civil liability.