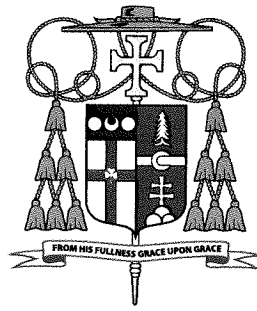


DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



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**STATEMENT OF BISHOP RONALD W. GAINER ON CONFIDENTIALITY  
PROVISIONS IN DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE  
SETTLEMENTS**

August 1, 2018

In 2002, the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops first enacted the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Under Article 3 of the *Charter*, Catholic dioceses are forbidden from entering into settlement provisions that bind parties to confidentiality, unless such relief is specifically requested by the survivor. The Diocese of Harrisburg has reviewed its historical files and learned that prior to 2002, the Diocese from time-to-time entered into settlement agreements with survivors of child sexual abuse and some of those settlement agreements contained confidentiality provisions. Though it has been the Diocese's policy for some time not to enforce those confidentiality provisions, I have learned that some survivors still feel constrained by them. Accordingly, on behalf of the Diocese, I waive any remaining confidentiality rights the Diocese has in those confidentiality provisions, while retaining all other rights the Diocese has under these agreements. I take this step about confidentiality so that the survivors can feel free to tell their stories to whomever and whenever they wish. I hope that this step will further aid those survivors, and perhaps others, in their path to healing.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald W. Gainer".

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Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer  
Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg