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# SafeCatholicSPM.org

Office of Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment

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## Frequently Asked Questions about Disclosure of Substantiated Claims

**Q: How is the archdiocese disclosing the names of men who have substantiated claims against them of sexually abusing a minor while they were assigned as clergy in our archdiocese?**

A: The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is committed to ongoing and prudent public disclosure of the names of men who have substantiated claims against them of sexually abusing a minor while they were assigned as clergy in our archdiocese. A substantiated claim is one for which sufficient evidence exists to establish reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged abuse occurred. It is not a presumption of guilt.

Information about individuals who are the subjects of substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor are [posted under accountability](#) at SafeCatholicSPM.org. The disclosure information includes the following, if known: the man's name, date of birth, date of ordination, known assignment history, the diocese or religious order to which he belongs or belonged, the date he was removed from ministry, current city of residence and current ministry status.

- On December 5, 2013 the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis disclosed a list of 30 names of men who have had substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor asserted against them while they were

assigned as clergy within this archdiocese.

- On February 17, 2014, the archdiocese disclosed an additional list of nine individuals against whom substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor have been asserted in the past. These names were identified through an external file review by [Kinsale Management Consulting](#).
- On May 22, 2014, the archdiocese disclosed an additional list of five individuals against whom substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor have been asserted in the past. These names were also identified through an external file review by Kinsale Management Consulting.
- On October 23, 2014, as part of the disclosure procedures agreed to in a settlement with Jeff Anderson and Associates, the archdiocese disclosed the names of 17 additional men who have had substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor asserted against them in the past. Of these 17 men, nine are the subjects of substantiated claims of abuse of a minor within this archdiocese. The remaining eight are the subjects of substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor outside this archdiocese.
- Also on October 23, 2014, there was a change in status of three of the four men noted in the category of "Men included on John Jay Commission list with unsubstantiated claims" when they were first disclosed in December 2013. Eugene Corica and Robert Loftus are now moved to the list of men who are subjects of substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor *within* this archdiocese. Roger Vaughn is added to the new list of men who are the subjects of substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor *outside* this archdiocese. Any claim against Patrick Joseph Ryan has not to this date been substantiated.

Several of the men in the archdiocese's disclosure listing also appear on similar lists posted by religious orders or other dioceses. All of the men on the disclosure list are permanently prohibited from ministry in this archdiocese; at least 24 of the men are deceased. Most of the reported incidents of abuse occurred between the mid-1950s and the mid-1980s. Archdiocesan leaders are not aware of any men with substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor against them who are currently in public ministry in the archdiocese.

As of October 23, 2014 there are total of 55 individuals' names and basic information disclosed by the archdiocese for substantiated claims of sexual abuse of a minor *within* the archdiocese. Of these 55 individuals, 53 are priests or former priests. The remaining two were religious brothers.

As of October 23, 2014, there are a total of nine individuals disclosed on our website who are or were priests of other dioceses or religious order priests who are alleged to have committed acts of sexual abuse of a minor *outside* of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. The archdiocese is not aware of any substantiated claim of sexual abuse of a minor asserted against these individuals relating to any conduct that occurred in this archdiocese. Some of these nine individuals held temporary assignments in this archdiocese. In other cases, they may have traveled to the archdiocese, or resided here without ministry faculties or lived here as a lay person. Their names are being disclosed by the archdiocese in the interest of full transparency, to comply with the Child Protection Protocols and Procedures first announced to the public on October 13, 2014 and to aid in healing for victims/survivors.

#### **Q: What is a substantiated claim?**

A: A substantiated claim is one for which sufficient evidence exists to establish reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged abuse occurred. It is not a presumption of guilt.

#### **What is a credible claim?**

A: A credible claim is one that is not manifestly false or frivolous.

#### **Q: Why did the archdiocese commit in 2013 to disclose the names of men with substantiated claims of sexual abuse against them while they were in ministry?**

A: Appropriate disclosure is critically important if we are to do all that we can to keep children safe, help victims/survivors of abuse heal, and regain the trust and confidence of our communities.

#### **Q: Who conducted the external review of clergy files begun in December 2013 and completed in April 2014?**

A: [Kinsale Management Consulting](#) was founded by Kathleen McChesney, a former top FBI official with more than 30 years of law enforcement experience. She also served as the head of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Office for Child Protection from its beginning in 2002 until mid-2005. During this time, she developed and oversaw a national compliance mechanism to ensure that all Catholic dioceses complied with civil laws and internal policies relative to the prevention, reporting and response to the sexual abuse of minors.

**Q: What was the scope of the Kinsale review of clergy files?**

A: Beginning in December 2013, Kinsale reviewed the clergy files of all men in ministry as clergy in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis at any point from 1970 to early 2014. Kinsale reviewed more than 3,000 clergy files before completing their work in April 2014. The purpose of the review was to determine whether there are additional cases of sexual abuse or other misconduct that require investigation by law enforcement, disclosure to the public or other action by the archdiocese. Several clergy members were publicly disclosed as a result of this file review.

**Q: Why is information about some priests or former priests being made public by plaintiffs' attorneys?**

A: As a part of discovery in the Doe 1 case, the archdiocese released certain files to plaintiffs' attorneys. Some of these files were sealed and some were unsealed. If files are unsealed, that means that their content is not required to be maintained as confidential. Only files relating to substantiated claims were unsealed.

**Q: What is the threshold for removing a priest from public ministry?**

A: If the archdiocese receives a credible claim of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult, a clergy member will be removed from public ministry, pending investigation in cooperation with civil authorities. Pursuant to the [Child Protection Protocols](#), the archdiocese will not interfere in any way with law enforcement investigation.

**Q: Can a priest who sexually abused of a minor ever be put back into public ministry?**

A: No. A priest who is known to have sexually abused a minor can ever return to public ministry.

**Q: Will the archdiocese continue to disclose names of clergy if claims of sexual abuse against them are substantiated?**

A: Yes. The archdiocese is committed to prudent and ongoing disclosure. If a claim is determined to be substantiated, whether from the review of clergy files by outside experts, information from law enforcement, our own investigation, or some other means, we will add the name of the clergy member to the disclosure section of our website. We will also share this substantiated claim information with the public by notifying parishes where the man was previously assigned, posting statements on our website and releasing information to the media.

**Q: Why not make *all* accusations against clergy public?**

A: Some claims against clergy may not be established as substantiated. It would be wrong to publicize these men's names when there is insufficient evidence to establish reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged abuse occurred.

**Q: Have any of these men with substantiated claims been permanently removed from the priesthood by being dismissed from the clerical state (laicized)?**

A: Some men named on the disclosure lists have been laicized. Laicization of some other men is in process. Dismissal from the clerical state, also known as laicization, is a complicated process of canon law (Church law) that may or may not be an available or appropriate option. Circumstances such as the age and health of the cleric, the amount of time that has passed since the abuse occurred, and the availability of evidence are all

factors to be considered. Regardless of whether a cleric is laicized, under no circumstances can a cleric who has sexually abused a minor ever return to ministry.

**Q: What does canon law require regarding the removal of abusive clergy from ministry?**

A: A priest who has sexually abused a minor must be removed from ministry immediately and permanently. A bishop who has received a report of sexual abuse of a minor must work with the Holy See in Rome to determine the most appropriate resolution to the priest's status.

**Q: Are the men on the disclosure list being supported financially or in other ways by the archdiocese? Where does this money come from?**

A: Financial support varies depending on the individual circumstances. The archdiocese has an obligation under canon law to ensure that no man ordained a priest is left destitute. All men who served as priests are legally entitled to receive priest pension benefits and supplemental health coverage that have accrued. Pension and retirement health care payments are paid from the priest pension trust and medical benefits trust.

**Q: What is the source of funds for payments for legal settlements and other costs related to clergy sexual abuse?**

A: The sources are insurance coverage, investment income, and unrestricted donations to the archdiocesan Chancery Corporation.

**Q: What should a person do if he or she recognizes a name on the disclosure list and has concerns about further risks the man may pose?**

A: Any concerns should be conveyed to [local law enforcement or child protection officials](#). In addition, a person with such concerns is encouraged to notify the archdiocese's Office of Ministerial Standards and Safe Environment at (651) 291-4400.

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