

Midwest Augustinians (O.S.A.)

Members with an Established Allegation of Sexual Abuse with a Minor

Last updated May 31, 2024; cached June 5, 2024 from <https://www.midwestaugustinians.org/survivor>

We, the Augustinians of the Midwest Province (Province), are profoundly sorrowful over the harm any minor has suffered as the result of sexual abuse perpetrated by any of our brothers. We also recognize and admire the courage of those who have come forward and who call us to respond with compassion and understanding to their pain. We continue to encourage any victims/survivors of sexual abuse to come forward.

The Province is committed to transparency, and as part of that commitment, we are publishing the list of our members and former members against whom one or more allegations of sexually abusing a minor have been established. In determining whether an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor is established, the Province adheres to the canonical standard of moral certitude, meaning that the Provincial recognizes that the contrary (that the allegation is false) may be possible, but is highly unlikely or so improbable, that the Provincial has no substantive fear that the allegation is false.

We were assisted in the preparation of this list by an Independent Review Board composed of experts from various disciplines, and our legal counsel. The Province first conducted a comprehensive review of the personnel files of its members. The cases of accused members were then presented to the Independent Review Board, which provided recommendations to the Provincial as to whether an allegation against a member of the Province has been established.

There is no Augustinian of the Midwest Province in public ministry with an established allegation.

There may very well be omissions to our list. Unfortunately, for some time, there was not a standard procedure for processing allegations. Care needed to be exercised in compiling this list, lest someone would be named who should not be, or those who should be named would be omitted. The Province ensured that the process to yield the public names was reliable and fair to all involved, including the Augustinians who may now be dead and those survivors who seek to maintain their peace. Our Province is especially concerned that those survivors who were harmed by members of our Province will not find the person who harmed them listed. Know that we have, to the best of our ability, published the names of offenders who have had an established allegation against them.

This list will be updated if and when the Province learns of additional current, former, or deceased members who have established claims of childhood sexual abuse. There may also be other circumstances preventing allegations from being deemed established, such as where a legal case is pending or an investigation is in progress.

The Province has implemented policies that serve to protect minors from abuse and ensure that all allegations of abuse of a minor are properly reported and investigated. Our personnel are provided rigorous training on those policies on a regular basis. Furthermore, since 2009, the Province has been accredited by Praesidium, Inc., a national leader in creating safe environments for minors, with the Augustinians having renewed that accreditation in 2024.

Join us as we continue to pray for healing for the survivors of sexual abuse and all those affected.

Friars from the Midwest Augustinians Against Whom One (or More) Allegations of Sexually Abusing a Minor Have Been Established

List last updated May 31, 2024

Fr. Raymond Thomas Dullard, O.S.A.

He was removed from ministry in 1974 and is deceased.

Fr. William A. Griffin, O.S.A.

He was dismissed from the Augustinian Order in 1978 and died in 2017.

Fr. John D. Murphy, O.S.A.

He was dismissed from the Augustinian Order in 1993.

Fr. Frank Paduch, O.S.A.

He left the Augustinian Order in 1989.

Bro. Mark Thedens, O.S.A.

He died in 2003.

If you believe that you, or someone you know, has been abused by an Augustinian of the Midwest Province, you are urged to advise the Province by contacting the Survivor Assistance Coordinator, Fr. John Merkelis, O.S.A.

Email: outreach@midwestaugustinians.org

Postal Address:

Rev. John D. Merkelis, O.S.A.
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