

PROTOCOLS FOR DEALING WITH BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS BY CLERICS WITH ADULTS

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana has consistently sought to witness to the Church's commitment to maintain within ministerial environments an atmosphere of safety and trust between clerics and employees of the Diocese and the people of God. These protocols are meant to address how the Diocese responds to allegations of professional boundary violations, not child abuse, with adults by clerics. The word "adult" is used for all those who are eighteen (18) years of age or older.

The Vicar General, Vicar for Clergy or a delegate of the Bishop, shall investigate allegations of boundary violations.

Specific Issues

Every effort is made to investigate all allegations to determine their veracity and seriousness. Reports lacking substance or anonymous allegations are handled by apprising the cleric in question for the sake of his own well-being. Normally, no records are kept on unsubstantiated allegations.

With serious matters, in a face to face interview to which the cleric in question may bring an advisor, the individual is informed of the allegation and asked to respond. The cleric in question is encouraged to be as forthright and honest as possible in responding. Experience has taught that matters are resolved with more satisfaction for all involved when the cleric in question is actively cooperative from the outset with the process.

The cleric in question may be asked to undergo a psychological and spiritual assessment. Depending on the results of the assessment, counseling and/or therapy may be prescribed. The Vicar for Clergy, Vicar General and/or delegate of the Bishop shall work with the cleric in question to facilitate and achieve the treatment goal(s).

The cleric in question may be placed on a leave of absence. Every effort is made to maintain as much confidentiality as possible and to provide a healthy environment for all involved.

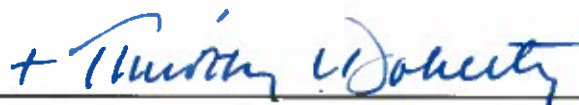
The Vicar General, Vicar for Clergy or delegate of the Bishop may consult with the Conduct in Ministry Officer, the Victims Assistance Officer, the Diocesan Review Board (see "Protocols for Sexual Misconduct with Minors"), or Legal Counsel.

If the threat of a civil suit flows from the allegation(s), the cleric in question will be expected to cooperate with the Diocese in dealing with that concern. If the Diocese is sued, it is customary for the Diocese to have legal representation separate from that of the cleric. It will be the responsibility of the cleric to obtain his own legal counsel.

Once an allegation has been handled and recurrence is deemed unlikely, the cleric in question will be permitted to resume his ministry once again within the Diocese. The return to ministry may be delayed or restricted. It may be necessary for the Vicar for Clergy, Vicar General or delegate of the Bishop to be involved with a cleric in monitoring and support over a longer period of time.

These protocols shall be reviewed regularly by the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Review Board and the Bishop in consultation with experts they may choose from time to time.

Promulgated at the Bishops Office and effective as particular law for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana in accordance with Canon 8, paragraph 2, of the 1983 Codex Iuris Canonici this 28th day of March in the year of Our Lord, 2017.



Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty, STL, PhD.
Bishop of Lafayette-in-Indiana



Very Reverend Theodore C. Dudzinski, JCL
Vicar General/Chancellor/Moderator of the Curia

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