



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the Names of Clergy and Religious Brothers and Sisters for Whom Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor Have Been Admitted, Established or Determined to be Credible

1. Why did you publish this list?

These names were disclosed in the interest of further transparency and accountability, and to continue to encourage victim survivors of sexual abuse by those working on behalf of the Church to come forward.

2. Who made the decision to publish the list?

The decision was made by Archbishop J. Peter Sartain after consultation with and recommendation by the external Archdiocesan Review Board. Archbishop Paul Etienne has continued this practice recently adding two names to the list.

3. How was the list developed?

To identify archdiocesan clergy and religious men and women who served or were known to have resided in the Archdiocese of Seattle for whom allegations of sexual abuse of minors were admitted, established or determined to be credible, the archdiocese hired Dr. Kathleen McChesney and her firm, Kinsale Management Consulting, to conduct an independent review of Archdiocesan files. The names of those identified in this review were then provided to the Archdiocesan Review Board (member information may be found at the following link: <https://archseattle.org/protect-and-heal/>) and to Archbishop J. Peter Sartain who approved the publication of the names.

5. If I call the Helpline to make an allegation of abuse by Church personnel what happens?

The person making the allegation is connected to the Victims Assistance Coordinator. Additionally, the archbishop offers a pastoral meeting to apologize on behalf of the Church and to assist in the healing process.

Additionally, the archdiocese offers to pay for counseling for the person making the allegation, as well as for family members, if it is desired. From 2006 through 2025, the archdiocese has paid approximately \$782,000 for counseling.

7. In addition to offering pastoral care and payment for counseling, what other steps does the archdiocese take when an allegation of abuse of a minor is received?

Law enforcement is notified, and the accused is placed on administrative leave. The archdiocese cooperates fully with any law enforcement investigation. At the conclusion of any law enforcement investigation, the archdiocese may also hire an independent investigator to conduct a separate investigation (unless the allegation has already been established by law enforcement or admitted by the accused).

The results of the investigation(s) are presented to the Archdiocesan Review Board for a determination of the credibility of the allegation and to make a recommendation to the archbishop. The archbishop arrives at a decision based upon the investigation and the Board's recommendation. If the allegation is determined to be credible, the accused is removed permanently from ministry. If the accused is a priest, he is placed on permanent prayer and penance or laicized in a process through the Vatican.

8. What does “permanent prayer and penance” status mean?

A priest is placed on permanent prayer and penance through a canonical process authorized by the Vatican. This status applies to a priest permanently removed from all public ministry. He is not permitted to administer sacraments, wear clerical attire, or present himself publicly as a priest. He is asked to pray for healing and to do penance on behalf of those who have been abused. A priest in this category is regularly visited by a compliance monitor with professional expertise in monitoring of this type.

9. What does “laicized” mean?

A “laicized” priest or deacon has been removed from the clerical state and returned to the status of a lay person. He is no longer considered to be a priest or deacon. “Laicization” is a canonical process through the Vatican.

10. What is the definition of a minor for the purposes of this list?

Anyone under the age of 18.

11. Do individuals on this list receive financial support?

Priests and laicized priests of the Archdiocese of Seattle who have earned a pension are legally entitled to those benefits. Archdiocesan priests on permanent prayer and penance status receive health benefits. Individuals on this list who are not, or were not, priests of the Archdiocese of Seattle do not receive any financial support from the archdiocese.

12. How much has the archdiocese paid out in settlements, and where has that money come from?

Since the late 1980s, approximately \$132,328,758 has been paid out in settlements for approximately 486 claims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy or religious brothers and sisters. Settlements that were made directly with survivors, as well as those resulting from litigation, are included in this number. These payments have come from insurance carriers, the archdiocese’s self-insurance plan, and the sale of archdiocesan held property.

13. What steps has the archdiocese taken to prevent sexual abuse of minors by Church personnel?

The Archdiocese of Seattle has a Safe Environment Program with policies and procedures designed to prevent and recognize signs of sexual abuse of minors. The archdiocese has been conducting criminal background checks of clergy, religious, and lay employees and volunteers who have ongoing unsupervised access to minors through Church activities since 1989. Since 1990, these individuals have also been required to undergo training to recognize and respond to potential signs of sexual abuse of minors.

Please read this [white paper](#) about the Archdiocese of Seattle’s history of action to learn more about the specific steps and actions that have been taken to create a safe environment for all.

Updated: February 25, 2019
Updated: January 23, 2020
Updated: December 8, 2020
Updated: January 14, 2022
Updated: February 14, 2023
Updated: March 30, 2023
Updated: January 16, 2024
Updated: January 15, 2025
Updated: January 30, 2026