

## **Part of the History of Child Protection and Assistance to Survivors of Abuse in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati**

1993 – first *Decree on Child Abuse* published in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. This *Decree* is updated every 5 years. Father Dan Conlon was Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

1998 – *Decree on Child Abuse* updated and name changed to the *Decree on Child Protection*. Father Chris Armstrong was the Chancellor of the Archdiocese.

January 6, 2002 – An article about child abuse perpetrated by priests appears in The Boston Globe. For more information, please see:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/special-reports/2002/01/06/church-allowed-abuse-priest-for-years/cSHfGkTlrAT25qKGvBuDNM/story.html>

2002 – March – Hamilton County empanels a special grand jury.

2002 – June - At their annual meeting in Dallas, the USCCB drafts a landmark document in response to the crisis of sexual abuse of children in the Church. This document, setting forth their agreed upon responsibilities in combating the problem, was entitled the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. The charter specifically created the *Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection* and assigned to it three central tasks:

- To assist each diocese and eparchy (Eastern Rite Catholic Churches) in implementing “Safe Environment” programs designed to ensure safety and security for all children as they participate in church and religious activities;
- To develop an appropriate compliance audit mechanism to assist the Bishops and Eparchs in adhering to the responsibilities set forth in the *Charter*;
- To prepare a public, annual report describing the compliance of each diocese and eparchy to the *Charter*'s provisions.

*The Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection* is established as a resource for dioceses/eparchies for implementing safe environment programs and for suggesting training and development of diocesan personnel responsible for child and youth protection programs, taking into account the financial and other resources, as well as the population and demographics, of the diocese/eparchy. The *Secretariat* produces an annual public report on the progress made in implementing and maintaining the standards in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* following an annual audit process. The report is public and includes the names of diocese/eparchies that the audit shows are not in compliance with the provisions and expectations of the *Charter*.

At this meeting, the USCCB also approves the *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons*. The Congregation for Bishops grants the required *recognitio* of the *Essential Norms* on December 8, 2002. The

*Essential Norms* are promulgated by the President of the USCCB as particular law in the United States on December 12, 2002.

This original *Charter* also calls for the establishment of a National Review Board whose tasks were to establish Safe Environment standards, set up an audit process for dioceses/eparchies to determine compliance with the *Charter*, commission a study of the “Nature and Scope” of the crisis to be released in early 2004, and commission a comprehensive study of the “Causes and Contexts” of the crisis.

2003 – *Decree on Child Protection* for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati updated. Father Chris Armstrong was Chancellor of the Archdiocese.

2003 - November 20 - following a twenty-month investigation by the Hamilton County prosecutor's office, Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk enters a plea of no contest regarding five misdemeanor charges of failure to report allegations of child abuse. No criminal judgment is rendered on the allegations themselves, only on the diocese's failure to report the allegations.

The Archdiocese sets up a \$3 million compensation fund as part of this agreement. The Archdiocese is fined \$10,000. A committee of three outside parties is formed to oversee the compensation fund, conduct investigations, and distribute the money. The fund’s purpose was to compensate people who identified themselves as having been abused, and whose abuse had not already been brought to closure by agreement or court decision. Approximately 120 people received monies from this fund. At this time, policies are further developed in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to respond to survivors; counseling had been provided to survivors prior to this time.

As part of the agreement, the Archdiocese agrees to make timely reports of allegations of child abuse to the Hamilton County civil authorities. The Archdiocese begins following this reporting practice with the other 18 counties in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and to civil authorities in other jurisdictions. The Archdiocese makes the reports of allegations of abuse before determining credibility.

Please see the statement of Archbishop Pilarczyk regarding the agreement at:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/protecting-children/resources-and-publications/statement-of-archbishop-pilarczyk-on-court-settlement/>

And articles about the agreement at:

[http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2003\\_07\\_12/2003\\_11\\_21\\_Sloat\\_CincinnatiArchdiocese.htm](http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2003_07_12/2003_11_21_Sloat_CincinnatiArchdiocese.htm)

<http://www.bishop-accountability.org/resources/resource-files/timeline/2003-11-21-Perry-FoundGuilty.htm>

As noted above, the USCCB set up an audit process for dioceses/eparchies to determine compliance with the *Charter*. The annual audit results for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are available at:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/protecting-children/resources-and-publications/usccb-reports/>

2004 – February - *The Nature and Scope and Causes and Context Phase I* report is released by the National Review Board. This information pertaining to allegations of child abuse from 1950 to 2002 was collected from dioceses and eparchies across the United States by the John Jay School of Criminal Law. The full text is available on the USCCB website at:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/The-Nature-and-Scope-of-Sexual-Abuse-of-Minors-by-Catholic-Priests-and-Deacons-in-the-United-States-1950-2002.pdf>

A summary of information submitted by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to the John Jay School of Criminal Law is available at:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/protecting-children/resources-and-publications/archbishop-pilarczyk-letter/>

Since that time, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has made public annual information on allegations of child sexual abuse by priests. Please see:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/protecting-children/resources-and-publications/report-on-child-abuse-in-the-archdiocese/>

More than a decade ago, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati listed the names of all priest offenders on a webpage titled, “Status Report on Clerics Accused of Child Abuse.” Please see:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/protecting-children/resources-and-publications/status-report-on-clerics-accused-of-child-abuse/>

2004 – March 10 - Archbishop Pilarczyk gives a presentation at the University of Dayton titled “What Were the Bishops Thinking” that shares part of the history of the response of bishops to the abuse. Please see:

<http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/protecting-children/resources-and-publications/what-were-the-bishops-thinking/>

2008 – *Decree on Child Protection* updated. Father Joe Binzer was the Chancellor.

2011 – Victim’s Assistance Coordinator position contracted with Catholic Charities.

2012 – Archdiocese begins VIRTUS training for all staff and volunteers.

2013 – *Decree on Child Protection* updated. Father Steve Angi was the Chancellor. The title of Victims’ Assistance Coordinator was changed to Coordinator of Ministry to Survivors of Abuse.

2014 – Archdiocese contracts with SELECTION.com to conduct background checks on staff and volunteers beginning in early 2014.

2018 – *Decree on Child Protection* updated. Father Steve Angi was the Chancellor.

++++  
Please remember these child abuse reporting requirements from pages 22-24 of the 2018 *Decree on Child Protection*

The Archdiocese will comply with all applicable civil laws with respect to reporting allegations of known or suspected abuse of children, or use or possession of child pornography to Civil Authorities. The full cooperation of the Archdiocese will be offered.

Because of the serious nature of child abuse, the law imposes obligations on many, and affords protection for all (ORC § 2151.421), in the reporting of known or suspected child abuse. It is the expectation that all who are subject to this *Decree* shall promptly alert the Civil Authorities and cooperate with them in good faith whenever there are allegations of child abuse, or acts of child abuse are known or suspected, unless to do so would violate a sacred trust (i.e. Sacrament of Reconciliation) or an established legal privilege. The report is to be made to Civil Authorities without preliminary screening, investigation, or judgment by the person who is mandated by law to make the report.

A report must then be made to the Chancellor, Father Steve Angi, (513.421.3131x2846).

Please see page 58 of the 2018 *Decree on Child Protection* for the Contact Numbers to Report Allegations of Child Abuse Resources: County Children’s Protective Services