

Q & A Regarding Potential Lawsuits Against Parishes

Q: Why are we now hearing about potential lawsuits against our parish?

A: As a result of the three-year lifting of the statute of limitations (Child Victims Act), it is anticipated that a number of parishes implicated in claims of sexual abuse occurring in the Archdiocese may be sued by claimants. In addition, many other parishes in Minnesota (outside the Archdiocese) may be sued before May 25, 2016, the expiration of the statute of limitations. If claimants don't file by then, it is expected that their cases against the parishes will be barred.

Q: Are these new claims?

A: For the most part, these are not new claims but claims that arise out of alleged misconduct occurring many years ago. The claims do not involve anyone who is currently working at the parish or that is currently in parish ministry.

Q: If the deadline to file a claim is May 25, 2016, when will we potentially get sued?

A: It is expected that the lawsuits will be served between mid-April and mid-May.

Q: Aren't these claims part of the Archdiocese's ongoing bankruptcy?

A: The claims are filed against the Archdiocese and the parishes, and the Archdiocese and parish attorneys are making every effort to resolve the claims against parishes in the course of the bankruptcy proceedings.

Q: Can't we just hurry and resolve these claims?

A: Unfortunately, it is not anticipated that the claims will be resolved before parishes are expected to be sued.

Q: How is our parish going to pay for the claims?

A: Most of the parishes that may be sued have made claims for insurance coverage for some or all of the claims.

Q: What happens to those parishes that don't have coverage?

A: We expect that these claims will also be dealt with in the Archdiocese bankruptcy case.

Q: Are insurance carriers involved in the process to try and get the claims resolved?

A: The insurance carriers for the parishes are on notice of the parish claims and are participating in the ongoing mediation process.

Q: How will these lawsuits affect our parish?

A: It is not expected that the lawsuits will affect the normal operations of the parish. The hope is that the cases will be resolved in a fair and equitable manner in the coming months.