



**FAQ's Regarding the Release of Names of Accused Jesuits
and Procedures for Preventing Abuse**

Q: What information are you releasing?

A: The USA Northeast Province is releasing the names of any Jesuits, living or deceased, and any former Jesuits with one or more credible allegations of abuse of a minor (a young person under the age of 18) since 1950. These include Jesuits of the former Buffalo, New England, and New York Provinces. Along with the names, we are releasing the Jesuit's current status and when that took effect. These include death, incarceration, leaving the Jesuits, being Impeded (permanently removed from ministry as provided by the USCCB and Conference of Major Superiors of Men in the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*), being Restricted from public ministry (Jesuits with credible allegations before the *Charter* or whose allegations did not fully fit the *Charter*), laicization (removed from the priesthood by canonical process). We are also providing the extent of his abuse, the time range of his abuse, and when the abuse was reported to the Province. Finally, we also list all external ministerial assignments and their dates.

Q: Where is this information available?

A: This information is accessible on the USA Northeast Province website.: www.jesuitseast.org.

Q: What do you mean by a credible accusation?

A: An allegation is deemed "credible" if there is a preponderance of evidence that the allegation is more likely true than not after investigation.

Credibility can also be established by a conviction in court or by the admission of the truth of the allegation by the Jesuit.

Q: Are any Northeast Province Jesuits who abused a minor while a Jesuit still in active ministry?

A: No.

Q: When is the last known incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a Northeast Province Jesuit?

A: In the Northeast Province, the last known credible allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a Jesuit happened in 1996. Most of the reported cases date back decades.

There have been more than 3,500 Jesuits who belonged to the Northeast Province or its predecessors since 1950.



Q: The released lists indicate that some Jesuits were engaged in ministry after the date the abuse took place. How do you explain that?

A: In many cases, the accusation was received many years after the abuse took place, so a Jesuit may have continued in ministry because we were not aware of the abuse at that time. Since 2002, when the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People was instituted, clear and consistent procedures have been developed for removing from ministry priests and religious with a credible allegation of abuse of a minor. Prior to that time, priests were sometimes allowed to continue in ministry after an accusation. For example, decades ago it was often recommended that someone who had abused a minor could be safely returned to ministry after receiving treatment. We know better now. Our awareness of the nature and effect of abuse of minors has changed dramatically over the years. We are diligent in investigating all accusations of abuse of a minor, and we do not allow anyone with a credible accusation to engage in public ministry. We recognize now our failures of the past in this regard, and we are deeply sorry.

Q: Why are you releasing this information now?

A: Recent revelations about sexual abuse of minors by priests are leading the People of God rightly to desire greater accountability from the leadership of the Church. We are releasing this information to provide that kind of transparency. We view this disclosure as part of our commitment now to preventing abuse and hope that it will contribute to the process of restoring trust.

Q: What happens when the Province receives an accusation of abuse of a minor?

A: When a claim involving abuse of a current minor is made against a Jesuit, the Province immediately reports it to law enforcement regardless of the current age of the victim. The Province fully cooperates with legal authorities throughout their investigation. Upon receipt of an allegation involving sexual misconduct with a minor, regardless of the victim's current age, the accused Jesuit is suspended from ministry pending the outcome of the investigation. The Province offers pastoral outreach to the victim. The Province also opens its own internal investigation irrespective of whether a criminal investigation is initiated. Results of the investigation are evaluated by the Province Review Board, comprised of mental health and legal professionals, which makes a recommendation regarding the status of the allegation to the Provincial.

Q: What happens to a Jesuit when an accusation of abuse of a minor is deemed credible?

A: We are committed to safeguarding others and preventing future abuse while also caring for our Jesuit brothers, even those who have committed crimes and serious sins. Jesuits who are credibly accused of abuse of a minor do not engage in public ministry and live within a Safety Plan in a strictly monitored environment where there is no contact with minors. Safety Plans specify risk reduction strategies and restrictions on behavior, including the use of technology, travel, and access by visitors. The plans are developed and monitored in consultation with the Review Board, and approved by an outside accrediting agency, Praesidium, Inc.

Q: What are you doing to make sure this never happens again?

A: The USA Northeast Province has a zero-tolerance policy regarding instances of inappropriate conduct between a Jesuit and a minor. We have had protocols and procedures in place since 2002 as part of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (Dallas Charter), a comprehensive set of procedures originally established by the USCCB for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy.

The Province is also accredited by Praesidium, Inc., an organization providing consultation, risk management assessment, policy development, and training materials for use in preventing sexual misconduct and responding to allegations of sexual misconduct. The Province maintains accreditation through regular audits by Praesidium. Our most recent re-accreditation was in April of 2018.

Jesuits at every stage of their ministry receive regular safe-environment training to promote ethical conduct in ministry and awareness and sensitivity of professional boundaries. Even before a young man is accepted into the Jesuits, he undergoes an in-depth screening process that includes a psychosexual assessment, social media evaluation and an extensive criminal background check. We work hard to ensure that our long formation program for these young Jesuits fosters a healthy development for both their spiritual life and mental health.

Q: How can I report abuse? Is the Province required to report accusations of abuse to civil authorities?

A: If you believe that you, or someone you know, has been abused by a Jesuit or a Province employee, we urge you to contact the USA Northeast Province by calling Ms. Kristin Austin, the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 443-370-6357, UNEadvocacy@jesuits.org, or in writing to the USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus, 39 East 83rd Street, New York, New York 10028. We report accusations involving a minor to law enforcement in the jurisdiction where the abuse occurred.