

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2018
RE: November 20, 2018 AP Article



Contact: Susan O'Brien
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Development
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There was an allegation made against Brian Danner by the parents of a student at St. Mary's in Humboldt. The student told her parents that he touched her leg in the confessional. As a result of the report, Danner's priestly faculties were suspended and he continues to not function as a priest. After taking the report, Diocesan legal counsel contacted the Humboldt County Attorney both by phone and with two letters. The first such letter dated December 11 is attached here. The Diocesan Review Board also reviewed the allegation and followed up with the family. Our Review Board will be working on the list of credibly accused priests at the December meeting, and there will be further information gained from the meeting that the Diocese set with the Attorney General of Iowa on December 6. Additionally, people were not "kept largely in the dark," as the Bishop went to the parish in Humboldt and explained to the parishioners what had transpired and that Danner had been removed.

Since the 2002 Charter for Children and Young People was put into place, there is a zero tolerance policy for any clergy, staff, or volunteers who work in any capacity at the Diocese. Any allegation is handled immediately. If the Bishop, after receiving input from the Review Board, determines that it is a possible credible allegation of sexual abuse against a minor, civil authorities are notified. Priestly duties are suspended and the Review Board, made up of lay people from the Diocese, review all allegations and advise the Bishop how to proceed. If you suspect abuse of a minor, call law enforcement. Then, call the Diocese of Sioux City to report the alleged abuse. The Diocese of Sioux City partners with an independent and professional local care provider to offer confidential, compassionate assistance for both minors and adults who were victims in their childhood by a member of the clergy. Please contact Angie Mack, Victim Assistance Coordinator at Mercy Child Advocacy Center: 1-866-435-4397 or 712-279-5610.

XXX

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December 11, 2017

Mr. Jonathan Beaty
Humbolt County Attorney
203 Main Street
P.O. Box 23
Dakota City, IA 50529-0023

Dear Mr. Beaty:

I am the attorney for the Diocese of Sioux City. This letter is a follow-up to a phone call that Jeff Mohrhauser, my partner, made to you about two weeks ago. We have received a complaint that a priest touched a fourth grade child on the leg or knee during confession. We are looking into this. However, the new rules under which we operate require us to notify civil authorities if we receive such a complaint. I believe that Jeff called you about this, but he said that he had not received a response.

If you do have any questions about this as we go forward, please do not hesitate to call.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

RAWLINGS, ELLWANGER,
MOHRHAUSER & NELSON, L.L.P.

Michael W. Ellwanger

MWE/cj