

Diocese of San Diego

STATUTES OF THE DIOCESAN REVIEW BOARD

PREAMBLE

Responding to the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* (Article 2) and the *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons* (Norms 4 & 5), the Bishop of San Diego hereby establishes a Diocesan Review Board.

ARTICLE ONE: PURPOSE

The Diocesan Review Board is a confidential consultative body of the diocesan bishop the purpose of which is to assist him in addressing sexual abuse by Church ministers.

ARTICLE TWO: FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Diocesan Review Board are:

- a. To review diocesan policies and programs for dealing with sexual abuse by Church ministers;
- b. To review the procedures and performance of personnel, both diocesan and parish based, implementing these policies and programs;
- c. To advise the bishop in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse;
- d. To offer advice on all aspects of responses required in connection with these cases;
- e. To advise the bishop in his determination of someone's suitability for ministry;

ARTICLE THREE: BISHOP

The bishop presides over all meetings of the Review Board, either personally or through a delegate. He prepares or causes to be prepared the agenda for each meeting. Only the bishop will be the public spokesperson for the board.

ARTICLE FOUR: MEMBERSHIP

The Review Board will be composed of the following:

- a. At least five persons of outstanding integrity and good judgment in full communion with the Church;
- b. At least one priest who is an experienced and respected pastor of the diocese;
- c. At least one person who has particular expertise in the treatment of sexual abuse.

The majority of Review Board members will be lay persons who are not employed by the diocese.

Members are appointed by the bishop for a term of five years which can be renewed.

ARTICLE FIVE: MEETINGS

The Review Board will have two regular meetings each year and as many special meetings as the bishop may convoke.

The minutes of the meetings are to be properly recorded.