

# Notice of Deadline for Filing Sexual Abuse Claims in The Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Bankruptcy Case

## ***All Sexual Abuse Survivors Need to File Claims by March 1, 2021***

*This is an official notice approved by the Bankruptcy Court.  
This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.*

Una versión en español de este aviso está disponible en [www.NOLAchurchclaims.com](http://www.NOLAchurchclaims.com)  
o llamando al 1- (877) 476-4389.

Phiên bản tiếng Việt của thông báo này có đăng tại: [www.NOLAchurchclaims.com](http://www.NOLAchurchclaims.com)  
hoặc gọi điện thoại đến số 1-877-476-4389.

- Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights, including the right to compensation, against the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans (the “Archdiocese”) and Non-Debtor Catholic Entities. A list of Non-Debtor Catholic Entities is available at the following website: [www.NOLAchurchclaims.com](http://www.NOLAchurchclaims.com) or by calling the following toll-free number: 1- (877) 476-4389.
- Regardless of how old you are today, if you have a claim for Sexual Abuse for which you believe the Archdiocese is or may be responsible, that occurred before May 1, 2020, you must file a claim in this bankruptcy case to preserve your rights.
- A list of diocesan and religious order priests and clergy in the Archdiocese and Parishes against whom the Debtor or Parishes has vetted reports of Sexual Abuse through the internal processes of the Archdiocese (the “Listed Clergy”) can be found at [www.NOLAchurchclaims.com](http://www.NOLAchurchclaims.com).
- Please refer to the website located at [www.NOLAchurchCommittee.com](http://www.NOLAchurchCommittee.com) for additional lists prepared by the Official Creditors’ Committee of (a) clergy that held assignments in the Archdiocese that were found to be credibly accused of Sexual Abuse by other religious orders and dioceses, and (b) clergy that held assignments in the Archdiocese against whom Sexual Abuse lawsuits have been filed.
- You can file a claim using the Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim Form approved by the court (1) by logging on to the following website: <https://www.donlinrecano.com/Clients/rcano/FileSexualAbuseClaim> or (2) by mailing or delivering a hard copy of your Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim to the address listed below.
- No plan of reorganization has been filed as of the date of this notice. However, if a plan to reorganize the Archdiocese is approved, it could release claims you hold against

certain third parties, including against churches, parishes, schools, Catholic Charities and the other Non-Debtor Catholic Entities that operate within the Archdiocese.

- If you have a claim against any such church, parish, school, Catholic Charities or other Non-Debtor Catholic Entity, you may have a claim against the Archdiocese.
- Your rights and options – **and the deadline to exercise them by** – are explained in more detail in this notice.

## BASIC INFORMATION

### 1. Why was this notice issued?

The Archdiocese filed a chapter 11 bankruptcy case. The Bankruptcy Court has set a deadline of **March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (Central Time)** for filing claims against the Archdiocese for sexual abuse.

The Archdiocese case is filed in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and the case is known as *In re The Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans*, No. 20-10846 (Bankr. E.D. La.). The Bankruptcy Court judge overseeing the case is the Honorable Meredith Grabill.

The Bankruptcy Court authorized the Archdiocese to send out this notice. You have the right to file a Sexual Abuse Claim in this bankruptcy case if you were Sexually Abused by persons associated with the Archdiocese regardless of how old you are today. This includes Sexual Abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Archdiocese, including schools, orphanages, parishes, or Catholic Charities. You are required to file a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim on or before **March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (Central Time)**.

## SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIMS

### 2. What is considered sexual abuse?

You have a Sexual Abuse Claim if you experienced sexual abuse. **Sexual Abuse** is defined as any of the following acts:

- a. Touching by the abuser of the person's intimate body parts (genitals, breasts or buttocks), the touching by the person of the abuser's intimate body parts, showing pictures of the person's body or other persons' bodies, taking pictures of the person's body, showing pornography, or making images of the person while naked or engaged in any sexual activity, or any sexualized interaction including observing the person in bathing, toileting, or undressing which was made possible by the abuser's position of authority, or by the inducement of the abuser, or;
- b. sexual intercourse, simulated intercourse, masturbation, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or any intrusion, however slight, to the genital or anal openings:

- (i) Of the person's body by any part of the abuser's body or any object used by the abuser for this purpose;
  - (ii) Of the person's body by any part of the body of the abuser or by any part of the body of another person, or by any object used by the abuser or another person for this purpose;
- c. Inappropriate physical contact and/or contact that infringes upon another's personal, physical boundaries including but not limited to groping, kissing, extended hugging, and/or any unwelcomed touching;
- d. Grooming or trying to create a special relationship, including but not limited to: talk of a sexual nature, talk of a romantic nature, communications expressing individual love to the person, as opposed to a salutation, providing material resources or experiences which induce the person into a relationship where trust is then violated.

If you have a claim from other types of abuse, including non-sexual physical abuse, non-sexual emotional abuse, bullying or hazing, you should file a General Proof of Claim (Official Bankruptcy Form 410).

### **3. Who should file a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim?**

You should file a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim if you have a Sexual Abuse Claim as defined above. You should file a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim regardless of whether you:

- Did or did not report your Sexual Abuse to the Archdiocese or to anyone else;
- Believe the applicable statute of limitations may have run on your Sexual Abuse Claim;
- Previously filed a lawsuit or asserted claims in connection with the Sexual Abuse;
- Previously had your Sexual Abuse Claim paid in full by the Archdiocese under a settlement, but you believe you may have additional claims beyond what was agreed to in the settlement agreement;
- Are included in, or represented by, another action with respect to your Sexual Abuse Claim.

You should submit a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim regardless of your age now or the length of time that has passed since the Sexual Abuse took place.

Do not file a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim if your claim is based on anything other than Sexual Abuse as defined above. If you have a claim arising from other types of abuse, including non-sexual physical abuse, non-sexual emotional abuse, bullying or hazing, you should

consult the *Notice Of Bar Dates For Filing Of General Proofs Of Claim* and file a General Proof of Claim (Official Bankruptcy Form 410).

#### **4. What if I am still not sure if I have a Sexual Abuse Claim?**

You should consult with an attorney if you have any questions, including whether you should file a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim.

#### **5. How can I file my Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim?**

**A copy of the Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim Form is enclosed. You may also obtain a copy of the form by following the instructions below.**

For additional copies of the Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim Form: (a) photocopy the enclosed Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim form; (b) contact the Debtor's claims agent Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc. by e-mail at [rcanoinfo@donlinrecano.com](mailto:rcanoinfo@donlinrecano.com) or phone, toll free at 1 (877) 476-4389, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday, or (c) visit the Debtor's website at: [www.donlinrecano.com/rccano.com](http://www.donlinrecano.com/rccano.com).

The Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim must be completed by you and mailed or submitted to Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc., the Court-approved agent for the Debtor (the "Claims Agent"), **by no later than March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (Central Time)** as follows:

- (i) If sent by mail, to Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc., Re: The Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, P.O. Box 199043, Blythebourne Station, Brooklyn, NY 11219, or
- (ii) If sent by hand delivery or overnight courier, send to: Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc., Re: The Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, 6201 15th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219; or
- (iii) If submitted electronically, by using the interface available at: <https://www.donlinrecano.com/Clients/rcano/FileSexualAbuseClaim> and following the instructions set forth therein.

Sexual Abuse Survivor Proofs of Claim sent by any other means (such as facsimile transmission or email through a different manner than described in (iii) above) **will not** be accepted.

If you have questions you can contact your attorney or call 1- (877) 476-4389 to speak to the Claims Agent. The Claims Agent can provide information about how to file a claim, but cannot offer any legal advice.

Please note that the Archdiocese's staff is not permitted to give legal advice. You should consult your own attorney for assistance regarding any other inquiries, such as questions concerning the completion or filing of a proof of claim.

**6. Will my information be kept confidential?**

Yes, subject to the limitations described below. The Bankruptcy Court has set up a procedure to protect your privacy. In order to protect your privacy, please do not file your Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim with the Bankruptcy Court. Instead, you must file according to the directions above.

Sexual Abuse Survivor Proofs of Claim will not be available to the public unless you choose to release that information by checking the box in Part 1 of the Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim. However, information about your Sexual Abuse Claim will be confidentially provided, pursuant to Bankruptcy Court-approved guidelines, to the following parties:

- The Archdiocese and its attorneys;
- Certain insurers of the Archdiocese including authorized claims administrators of such insurers and their reinsurers and counsel;
- Attorneys for the Official Creditors' Committee and its members;
- Attorneys at the Office of the United States Trustee for the Eastern District of Louisiana;
- Any unknown claims representative appointed in the bankruptcy case;
- The Claims Agent (Donlin Recano & Company, Inc.);
- Any special arbitrator, mediator, or claims reviewer appointed to review and resolve Sexual Abuse Claims;
- Any trustee, or functional equivalent thereof, appointed to administer payments to holders of Sexual Abuse Claims; and
- Such other persons that the Court determines need the information in order to evaluate Sexual Abuse Claims.

Please note that information in your Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim may be disclosed to governmental authorities under mandatory reporting laws in many jurisdictions.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**7. How do I report my sexual abuse to the authorities?**

Reporting the Sexual Abuse protects other persons. You can learn more about how to report Sexual Abuse at <http://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/page/109>.

Please know that reporting Sexual Abuse is different than filing a claim in the Archdiocese's bankruptcy case.

**8. What happens if I do not file a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim?**

If you fail to submit a completed Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim to the Claims Agent on or before **March 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (Central Time)**, you may not be able to:

- vote on the Archdiocese's plan of reorganization; or
- receive any compensation in the Archdiocese's bankruptcy case for your Sexual Abuse Claim.

**YOU MAY WANT TO CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY REGARDING THIS NOTICE AND WHETHER YOU SHOULD FILE A SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVOR PROOF OF CLAIM.**