



DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

Complainants/Victims' Statement of Rights

The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is committed to the safety and well being of those we serve. Each individual is created with a God-given dignity. Therefore, the Diocese condemns all forms of abuse or neglect of all people of all ages. The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is committed to providing the following in order to assist in the healing process.

- Pastoral, moral, and spiritual help from the Diocese are to be offered to the victim (in case of a minor, parents must consent) and/or family if such is allowed by the appropriate public authority. Pastoral concern of the Diocese may include an offer to pay for counseling where needed. The extent of this offer will vary with circumstances of the case. This assistance will not be considered as an indication that the Diocese is in any way culpable or responsible for the actions of the accused.
- The victim and his or her family will be kept informed of the status of the investigation. In cases where separate criminal or civil action is anticipated or pending, it is important that the family be apprised that no judgment may be made by the Diocesan Bishop until the legal processes have been completed.
- No Diocesan personnel may be subjected to adverse conditions in their employment/ministry as a result of making a good faith report of sexual misconduct.
- At no time will the complainant/victim be required to physically face the accused under these procedures.
- The victim has the right to a personal meeting with the Bishop of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

Florida Crime Victims' Bill of Rights

Victims of crime or their lawful representatives, including the next of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to the right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused.

Florida Constitutional Amendment, Article I

Sec. 16. Rights of accused and of victims

(a) In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall, upon demand, be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him, and shall be furnished a copy of the charges, and shall have the right to have compulsory process for witnesses, to confront at trial adverse witnesses, to be heard in person, by counsel or both, and to have a speedy and public trial by impartial jury in the county where the crime was committed. If the county is not known, the indictment or

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information may charge venue in two or more counties conjunctively and proof that the crime was committed in that area shall be sufficient; but before pleading the accused may elect in which of those counties he will be tried. Venue for prosecution of crimes committed beyond the boundaries of the state shall be fixed by law.

(b) Victims of crime or their lawful representatives, including the next of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to the right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused.

For more information on Florida's Victims' Bill of Rights you may go online to myfloridalegal.com the Florida Office of the Attorney General.

I acknowledge I have received my Bill of Rights as a Complainant/Victim with the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee and the Florida Victims' Bill of Rights.

X _____
Signature

Date: _____

X _____
Print

X _____
Witness Signature

X _____
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