



Constitution

Erie Diocesan Review Board

*Office for the Protection of
Children and Youth*

A. Mission

To serve as a confidential consultative body to the diocesan Bishop

B. Membership

- ◆ At least six persons of outstanding integrity and good judgment, who are in full communion with the Catholic Church, the majority of whom are lay persons not in the employ of the diocese
- ◆ At least one experienced and respected pastor
- ◆ At least one member with particular knowledge and expertise *re* sexual abuse of minors
- ◆ Ex-officio, the Promoter of Justice
- ◆ Consultant, the Victim Assistance Coordinator

C. Functions of the Review Board

- ◆ To advise the diocesan Bishop in assessing allegations of the sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons and other diocesan personnel
- ◆ To assist the diocesan Bishop in determining suitability for ministry of priests, deacons and other diocesan personnel
- ◆ To advise the diocesan Bishop regarding all aspects of cases, whether retrospectively or prospectively
- ◆ To approve diocesan policies *re* sexual abuse of minors

D. Meetings

- ◆ Meetings will be held as needed at the discretion of the diocesan Bishop and at least once a year.

E. Role of the Victim Assistance Coordinator

- ◆ Meeting as soon as possible with victims and/or their families and doing an immediate needs assessment;

- ◆ Developing a referral list of helping professionals with experience in treating victims of sexual abuse;
- ◆ Contacting and referring victims and/or their families to competent professionals, receiving and approving invoices for payment of services;
- ◆ Ensuring that psychological services are offered consistent with the highest standards of the profession and applicable civil law;
- ◆ Ensuring that all participating professionals are properly licensed or possess equivalent credentials;
- ◆ Collaborating with diocesan personnel in the development of programs for healing and reconciliation;
- ◆ Serving the Diocesan Review Board in an advisory capacity;
- ◆ Providing Diocesan Review Board members with a descriptive report of victims' circumstances to assist in the discernment process;
- ◆ Maintaining professional standards re confidentiality and privacy with the understanding that confidentiality includes Diocesan Review Board members.

F. Term of Office

Members are appointed by the diocesan Bishop and serve for a terms of five (5) years, renewable once.

G. Media Relations

The Bishop and one lay member, elected by a majority of the members, serve as spokespersons for the Board.

*Approved by the Diocesan Review Board
August 5, 2003
Erie, Pennsylvania*

*Revised and Approved by the Diocesan Review Board
June 8, 2016
Erie, Pennsylvania*