

Responsibilities for Clergy Leaves of Absence Due to Misconduct

The following procedures are the terms that will be used when a priest takes a leave of absence as the result of Sexual Misconduct (not with a minor), or other forms of Misconduct (for example, addictive behavior or financial malfeasance) and enters a treatment facility specified by the diocese:

The priest will:

1. Prepare and deliver appropriate communication to parishioners with the Bishop's approval.
2. Notify his Dean of his departure.
3. Be responsible for all personal bills, such as personal loans, credit cards, etc.
4. Contribute to counseling costs for victims to the extent he is able.
5. Sign a release form so that the treatment center may send the evaluation report to the Bishop.
6. Receive a reduced monthly salary in the form of 25% to 50% so that the money can go to help pay the expenses of treatment, legal costs, etc.

The parish will (in the event that the priest continues to be assigned there):

1. Send 25% to 50% of the priest's salary to the diocese to help pay the costs of treatment and other expenses.
2. Mail the reduced monthly salary check to the diocese to be sent to the priest
3. Pay monthly medical premiums, monthly pension fund contributions or other normal monthly bills the parish pays for the priest.

The Diocese and the Clergy Assistance Fund will:

1. Cover the cost of transportation for one round-trip to and from the facility. (Any other trips away from the facility are at the expense of the priest.)
2. Mail the reduced monthly salary check directly to the priest or as directed in writing.
3. Pay uninsured medical expenses.
4. Pay all treatment costs.
5. Find a replacement for him at the parish.
6. If he is removed from the parish assignment, pay the normal parish bills (see 3 above.)

Approved for promulgation by the Dallas Presbyteral Council
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Rev. Clifford Smith, Council Secretary