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## Doubts on church class action

BY CATHERINE ANDERSON  
Law Reporter

A CLASS action against the Anglican Church for sex abuse was unlikely to go ahead but each person might take legal action on their own, a Hobart lawyer said yesterday.

Brian Hilliard, state manager of law firm Watling Roche, was commenting on a writ one of his clients had lodged with the Supreme Court against the Anglican Church.

Brett Skipper, 26, of the ACT, is seeking damages for personal injuries suffered as a result of alleged negligence, assault and trespass between 1984 and 1987

### Shift in fight on sex abuse

which caused him damage on July 2, 1998.

Mr Skipper has lodged the claim against the church, Louis Victor Daniels of the ACT, who is a priest no longer employed by the church, and layman Robert Brandenburg, of South Australia.

Mr Hilliard said his firm had investigated a class action against the church for about 12 clients who had come forward as a result of a church inquiry.

The church-backed inquiry, Not

the Way of Christ, raised allegations earlier this year of sexual misbehaviour against 17 clergy members.

Mr Hilliard said 12 were alleged victims of sex abuse by clergy or officers of the Anglican Church.

The 12 people had diverse histories which were too dissimilar for a class action. However, they might take legal action against the church individually.

It was too early to say how many of the 12 would proceed.

Anglican Church spokesman Rev Paul Arnott said the church had not yet been served with the writ so it was not possible to comment.