



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICE

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ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE CLAIM SUMMARY

16 January 2012

Melb. No. 317/517

Name of Claimant: AFA

Date of Birth REDACT 1962

Name of Offender: Father Michael Glennon

Date of Event: 1977/1978

Date of Knowledge: 1978

Medical Report

There are three medical reports of which the most comprehensive and informative is that commissioned by Carelink from Dr SK Brann. Dr Brann states that the complainant is suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Social Phobia associated with abuse history, Major Depressive Disorder, Alcohol Abuse – In remission, the commencement of which coincided with the sexual abuse by Father Glennon. Due to a family history of alcohol abuse, the complainant's father was an alcoholic, Dr Brann suggests she cannot conclude that the problems displayed are entirely related to the sexual abuse. However, she does say the PTSD and panic attacks are quite specific and the Social Phobia is a disorder sometimes associated with a history of sexual abuse.

Two other reports from Dr Perera and Dan Torpy, both of whom treated the complainant, were requested by the Independent Commissioner. Dr Perera states that *"the depression has been precipitated or made significantly worse by the abuse he had suffered in childhood"*. Dan Torpy says *"I have no doubt that Michael Glennon did abuse AFA Whilst there is a history of alcoholism and depression in his family I believe as a professional psychologist that the sexual abuse would have been a huge contributor to greater severity of his depressive illness"*

It would appear safe to conclude that the condition in which the complainant presents is attributable to some extent to the abuse by Father Glennon when he was aged 15 years..

Report of Investigation

The Independent Commissioner conducted his enquiry. Copy of an extract from his record of interview is attached. He concluded that AFA [redacted] was abused by Father Glennon and so reported to the Compensation Panel. The circumstances described here are totally consistent with the accounts given by a number of other victims of Michael Glennon.

Police Report

AFA [redacted] requested copies of the transcript of interview with the Independent Commissioner and the report of Dr Brann in connection with his stated intention to report the matter to the Police. Glennon is part way through serving a term of imprisonment. The Police may well await an appropriate time to lay further charges against him.

Compensation Panel

The Compensation Panel awarded a sum of \$50,000 to the complainant. The cap on awards under the Melbourne Process is \$75,000. Having regard for the nature of the abusive conduct and the uncertainty about the extent to which the medical problems presented can be attributed to the abuse, this would seem a not unreasonable sum. AFA [redacted] rejected the offer in the first instance. He indicated he was seeking a sum of \$250,000 and would pursue a claim for this amount in the legal arena. Subsequently, he accepted the offer.

The Events

The abuse occurred when Michael Glennon was Assistant Priest at Reservoir. Father Glennon was renowned for his work with young men. His particular activity was the establishment of Karate Schools. The first occurrence took place when AFA [redacted] accompanied him to demonstrate at a new school being opened in a neighbouring parish. The abuse took the form of fondling his genitals in the car. The priest operated a Karate camp at Lancefield. On an occasion there AFA [redacted] was sharing a tent with Glennon when he attempted to anally penetrate him. He resisted and the attempt failed. On a second occasion at the camp, sharing sleeping accommodation, Glennon started to fondle AFA [redacted] who told him to stop and struck him. This last event occurred in early 1978 prior to Glennon being charged on 15 April 1978.

There is fleeting mention of another occasion involving Marist Brother Greg Coffey who is known to us, who exposed himself to AFA [redacted] when he was aged thirteen but nothing has been made of this.

Conclusion as to Indemnity

We have previously accepted that the Archdiocese was unaware of the offending by Michael Glennon until he was first charged by the Police in April 1978.

The Archdiocese held a Public Liability policy with the company at the time of these events.

The complainant was a parishioner of the Reservoir Parish and there was a pastoral relationship with the priest. At the time of the events, the priest was acting in the course of the "business" of the Archdiocese. We would then regard him a person for whose conduct the Archdiocese was responsible. In my view the policy should respond and reimbursement of the compensation paid to the claimant should be made.

The reimbursement might then be calculated as follows:

Settlement	\$50,000.00
Pre - settlement Counselling	149.80
Post -settlement Counselling	49.80
Pre - Settlement Medication	530.95
Post-settlement Medication	194.35
Carelink Miscellaneous	21.30
Carelink Administration	1,000.00
Compensation Panel	595.00
Independent Commissioner	4,000.00
Corrs Fees	9,300.00
Carelink Administration	<u>1,000.00</u>
	<u>\$66,841.20</u>

LMR
16.01.2012