

Diocese of Wollongong

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PW/lt

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CONFIDENTIAL

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger
Prefect
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Palazzo del S Uffizio
Piazza del S Uffizio 11
00120 CITTA DEL VATICANO

Your Eminence

In this diocese the possibility exists that, in a short time, a priest will be tried canonically over allegations concerning the sexual molestation of a minor. While preparing for this eventuality, I have formed a question.

In such a case, do I follow the procedures of the *Instructio: De modo procedendi in causis sollicitationis*, issued by the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office of 1962? This seems to be indicated in *Titulus quintus: De crimine pessimo*. Or do the regulations of *instructio* only apply when these acts are alleged to have occurred in the context of sacramental confession?

Your Eminence, I would appreciate your advice at your earliest convenience.

With best wishes and thanks

Yours sincerely

+ Philip Wilson

Most Rev P Wilson DD JCL
BISHOP OF WOLLONGONG