

D U N H I L L  
M A D D E N  
B U T L E R

SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

PDG

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Direct Line 617 5779

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March 25, 1994

Rev. Fr. B.J. Flemming SJ  
Personal Assistant  
Office of the Archbishop  
St. Patrick's Cathedral  
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

Dear Father,

Re: Reverend R. Pickering  
Claim By

We have been forwarded copies of correspondence between the Cathedral and Messrs Corrs, solicitors, concerning the abovenamed.

Catholic Church Insurances Ltd have instructed us to act on behalf of the Archbishop in respect of this claim.

We are accordingly writing to advise, subject to investigations being finalised, that the Archbishop will be covered by the operation of the Special Issues Policy in relation to this claim.

On examining the allegations and having interviewed a number of witnesses, it appears that the claim, insofar as it is directed against the Christian Brothers, is inappropriate. The allegations that have been made are solely against Fr. Pickering in what appears to be his capacity as a Parish Priest. The only connection with the Christian Brothers appears to be that Fr. Pickering was introduced to the boy, , at CBC St. Kilda, at the request of Br. McGrath, who was the then Principal of the School. Apparently the boy had some difficulty, upon entering puberty, and his mother was advised to take him to see Fr. Pickering at that stage. In those circumstances, it appears that it is inappropriate for these proceedings to be

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P W T McCabe  
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S Amendola  
D E Nathan  
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P Merrylees  
P D Gamble  
E A Solomon  
B R Watkins  
P E Cash  
C Penn-Tonkin  
D M Hogan  
J S Sandler  
S G Walters

Senior Associates

J E Boyall  
A D Bruce  
V J Bennetts  
M J Casey  
D V Darzins  
I F K Fullagar  
M F Levy  
P G Linsdell

Consultants

A J Fenton  
C K McMillan  
H M Graham  
F M Wheelahan

Sydney  
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C B Vass  
P G Morgan  
D J Hamilton  
J M Churchill  
J D L Fabian  
R C Jordan  
M T R Binetter  
H Werksman  
P S D Purcell  
G A Francis  
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I G Johnston  
D P Selig  
B N McLean  
C B Brierley  
J F Whitehouse  
P A Evans  
A Spearritt  
P H Stacey  
L L DeBiasi  
M F P Daniel

Ref: 281-102.PDG

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- 2 -

brought against the Christian Brothers. However, we are not able to control the Plaintiff in this regard and it may be that they choose to issue proceedings against as many Defendants as they can.

At present, we have arranged for Fr. Pickering to be interviewed in England as to these allegations.

We have received a report from Mr. O'Connor, who spent some time with the Vicar General, Monsignor Cudmore, discussing this case. At that time, Monsignor Cudmore produced Fr. Pickering's file to Mr. O'Connor and some of the entries in it were discussed. To assist us in preparing for the defence of this claim, we would be obliged if you would arrange for Monsignor Cudmore to forward to us a complete copy of Fr. Pickering's file.

At present, given the time since the alleged assaults took place and the fact that, if we accept the allegations made by the claimant, there was a consensual relationship between Fr. Pickering and the claimant until the claimant reached the age of 21 years, we are minded to defend this claim in Court. However, a final decision in that regard will not be made until our enquiries are completed. We will advise you of our instructions in that respect once they are to hand.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to telephone our Mr. Paul Gamble, who will be happy to assist you with same.

Yours faithfully,  
DUNHILL MADDEN BUTLER

PAUL GAMBLE.

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