

Dominic Cudmore

From: Dominic Cudmore
Sent: Friday, 21 February 2003 4:00 PM
To: 'Richard d'Apice'
Cc: 'John Davoren'; Michael Casey
Subject: Health Records of a Retired and Ill Diocesan Priest

Dear Richard

I'd be grateful for your advice here.

We have a certain PSO matter in which it has been recommended by the PSO that we obtain an assessment of the mental health status of a certain retired **Diocesan Priest** now resident at the **Little Sisters of the Poor (St John Vianney Villa)** at Randwick.

We have been advised that Fr X is very much affected by Alzheimer's.

For this reason, we have suggested to the complainant that a facilitated meeting with Fr X would not be fruitful.

However, the complainant is still insistent that Fr X is actually reasonably *compos mentis* and so wants a facilitated meeting with Fr X to proceed.

Accordingly, I would like to be satisfied as to Father X's **actual mental state**.

To do so I could:

- (a) *contact the priest's treating physician and seek a report from him/her*
- (b) *request the priest's health records and get them assessed myself*
- (c) *request that the priest be assessed by a specialist mental health physician*

I would be grateful if you could advise as follows

1. **Which, if any, of the above alternatives you would recommend**
2. **Does the archbishop/archdiocese have a 'right' to obtain such information on the mental health status of a priest of the archdiocese? I am concerned about Privacy here. Plus, I do not want the good Little Sisters of the Poor acceding to our request and then landing themselves in a Privacy Act problem.**

Thanks in advance.

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