

Professional Standards Office

Established by the Bishops and Leaders of Religious Institutes
of the Catholic Church
in NSW and the ACT

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Most Rev G Pell DD
Archbishop of Sydney
276 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Archbishop,

Regarding the matter of Ellis and Duggan

It is now clear the facts of this case can never be satisfactorily clarified. It does not appear that Mr. Ellis can corroborate his version of events in such a way that it would be possible to conclude on the balance of probabilities that the situation that he described did in fact take place. I note that the alleged events commenced when he was under age and continued for a period of some ten years. The matter was then prima facie a criminal one at the outset. However, it is not likely to go to a criminal court when the accused is in no position to plead. Mr Ellis who is a lawyer could decide to go to civil court but again it is difficult to see how this could proceed very far, and the fact that the relationship continued into adulthood would presumably be a matter that the court would take into consideration.

One plan that has been discussed as the next setp was a meeting under supervision with Fr Duggan as a pastoral response that might be of assistance to Mr Ellis. There are some potential problems with this approach, and I recommend that such a meeting not take place. Rather, I suggest that if Mr Ellis wishes to meet with Fr Duggan he seek to arrange that through the hospital, and that it be left to the hospital to decide whether or not and how such a visit should be arranged.

I suggest that if you agree with this advice, it would be better if this message were to be communicated to Mr. Ellis in a letter from you. I attach a draft that you might like to consider.

Yours sincerely,

John Davoren

Director – Professional Standards