

May 4, 2020

22 State AGs Investigating Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church

Alabama

- Unable to investigate under current law: <https://www.al.com/news/2018/11/in-alabama-archaic-laws-fail-catholic-child-sex-abuse-victims.html>

Alaska - Archdiocese Investigating

- Archdiocese of Anchorage Launches Own Independent Commission for Investigation of Sexual Misconduct: <https://www.archdioceseofanchorage.org/press-release-about-independent-commission/>
- August 22, 2019, 7 Clergy Members Named in Review: <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2019/08/22/seven-alaska-clergy-members-named-in-catholic-church-review-of-sexual-misconduct-allegations/>

Arizona - No Official Investigation Underway Yet

- Survivors of Abuse Asking for Statewide Investigation: https://www.azfamily.com/news/survivors-of-sex-abuse-by-priests-pushing-arizona-ag-to/article_72b41f8e-b95e-11e9-85b9-fb9c9cc7a295.html
- Phoenix priest accused of sexually abusing 2 boys indicted:
- https://www.azfamily.com/news/phoenix-priest-accused-of-sexually-abusing-boys-indicted/article_0390e8d4-3335-11ea-918c-b72b81eb53.html

Arkansas

- AG Working with Catholic Church to Investigate: <https://talkbusiness.net/2018/09/ag-rutledge-to-work-with-state-catholic-diocese-to-investigate-church-abuse-allegations-in-arkansas/>

California - Official Investigation

- AG Investigating Catholic Church Handling of Abuse: <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-church-los-angeles-investigation-archdiocese-sex-abuse-20190503-story.html>
- Abuse Reporting Link: <https://oag.ca.gov/clergyabuse>
- CA AG Subpoenas Dioceses Records:
- <https://losangeles.legalexaminer.com/legal/california-attorney-general-subpoenas-records-from-half-of-california-dioceses/>

Colorado - Official Investigation

- Attorney General Announcement: <https://coag.gov/resources/survivors-of-childhood-sexual-abuse/>
- Abuse Report Form: <https://coag.gov/resources/survivors-of-childhood-sexual-abuse/report-abuse/>
- Some Questions Colorado Investigation:
- <https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/investigations/some-question-if-colorado-probe-of-catholic-church-will-uncover-full-scope-of-priests-abuse>
- Wannabe Priests Will be Evaluated:
- <https://coloradosun.com/2019/10/14/roman-catholic-church-safety-training/>
- CO Report Accuses 43 Priests of Sexual Abuse:



- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/23/us/politics/colorado-catholic-church-abuse-investigation.html>
- Former pastor named in sex abuse probe:
- <https://www.lajuntatribunedemocrat.com/news/20191031/former-local-pastor-named-in-sex-abuse-probe>
- Colorado's Catholic Priest Abuse reparations program received 78 claims:
- <https://coloradosun.com/2020/02/05/colorado-catholic-priest-abuse-reparations-program/>

Connecticut

- Seeking to Enact Legislation to Allow Investigation:
<https://www.theday.com/article/20181027/NWS01/181029423>

Delaware - Official Investigation

- News Article: <https://whyy.org/articles/delaware-launches-widespread-probe-into-possible-sex-abuse-by-priests/>

Florida - Official Investigation

- Abuse Complaint Form: <https://www.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/stopabuse>
- Bondi investigating complaints of church coverup in wake of Pennsylvania abuse indictments:
- https://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/crime/Bondi-investigating-complaints-of-church-coverup-in-wake-of-Pennsylvania-abuse-indictments_172371251/

Georgia - Official Investigation

- Georgia attorney general launches investigation into state's Catholic abuse crisis:
<https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/georgia-attorney-general-launches-investigation-states-catholic-abuse-crisis>

Hawaii

- Text of Senate Resolution Passed Calling for Statewide Investigation, Passed on April 12, 2019: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/SR4_.HTM
- Investigation of Sexual Abuse In Catholic Church Could Drive Out Darkness:
<https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/03/investigation-of-sexual-abuse-in-catholic-church-could-drive-out-darkness/>

Idaho

- Cannot launch investigation unless asked to do so by local police or sheriff force:
<https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/403806-states-consider-investigations-into-catholic-church-abuse>

Illinois - Official Investigation

- Investigation Press Release:
http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2018_08/20180823b.html
- Initial Investigation Results, December 2018:
http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2018_12/Catholic_Church_Preliminary_FindingsUpdate121918.pdf?ftag=MSF0951a18
- August 2019 AG & Cardinal Cupich Meeting: <https://abc7chicago.com/illinois-attorney-general-and-cardinal-cupich-have-private-meeting;-discuss-clergy-sex-abuse-investigation/5481908/>
- Clergy Abuse Hotline Press Release:
http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2018_08/20180827b.html
- Archdiocese of Chicago credit endangered by state probe:

- <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/greg-hinz-politics/archdiocese-chicago-credit-endangered-state-probe>
- Chicago Deacon Asks For Deceased Abusers to be Named:
- <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-clergy-abuse-chicago-archdiocese-deceased-priests-20191007-gfygbonknbe5h4hjsqohigoka-story.html>
- Sexual Abuse Reports from Illinois' Catholic Diocese are Still Missing a lot of Data:
- <https://www.propublica.org/article/search-credibly-accused-catholic-priests-illinois>

Indiana - Official Investigation

- Clergy Abuse Resources: <https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/3488.htm>
- Clergy Abuse Report Form: <https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/3485.htm>
- News Article: <https://fox59.com/2019/03/07/attorney-general-curtis-hill-encourages-hoosiers-to-report-clergy-abuse/>
- News Article: https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/publicsafety/illinois-attorney-general-finds-more-catholic-clergy-accused-of-abuse/article_f69c40c5-5086-53b3-a9c8-afdcd103ff5.html

Iowa - Official Investigation

- Letter Requesting Documents From Each Diocese: https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/media/cms/Diocese_Letters_215B6EF05BA08.pdf
- News Article: http://www.iowastatedaily.com/news/iowa-ag-sues-church-for-documents/article_58e5e9c0-8709-11e9-9964-abf88e7f69c0.html

Kansas - Official Investigation

- Press Release Announcing Kansas Bureau of Investigation to Investigate: <https://ag.ks.gov/media-center/news-releases/2019/01/28/ag-derek-schmidt-statement-on-archdiocese-of-kansas-city-in-kansas-release-of-list-of-substantiated-claims-of-clergy-sexual-abuse-with-a-minor>
- News Article: <https://www.kansas.com/news/local/crime/article233015562.html>
- Kansas City Diocese Names Accused Priests: <https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article234792262.html>
- Wichita Diocese Releases Names of 15 Accused Priests:
- <https://www.kwch.com/content/news/Catholic-Diocese-of-Wichita-names-substantiates-claims-of-sexual-abuse-claims-against-15-priests-560873431.html>

Kentucky

- AGs Office has yet to launch an investigation, but does seek to do so, once legislation opening an avenue for investigation are passed. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/bills-enabling-statewide-clergy-abuse-investigation-stalled-kentucky/story?id=63488194>

Louisiana

- AG Lacks Authority and Resources to Investigate: https://www.nola.com/news/crime_police/article_357c17c5-7014-56a0-9986-94dc43d945cf.html

Maine

- Previous Investigation in 2004, No Current Investigation: <https://wgme.com/news/local/former-maine-priest-named-in-sex-abuse-report>

Maryland - Official Investigation

- Hotline Information:
- <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Press/2019/011019a.pdf>

- Maryland attorney general is investigating sexual abuse in the Catholic Church: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2018/09/25/maryland-attorney-general-is-investigating-sexual-abuse-catholic-church/>
- Maryland has begun charging individual priests according to their investigations: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-cr-brennan-us-investigation-of-priest-sex-abuse-0906-20190906-xvwu2mq5zjd45nutasaw6ibnga-story.html>

Massachusetts - Official Investigation

- News Article: <https://www.wgbh.org/news/national-news/2018/11/21/ag-healey-on-priest-sex-abuse-we-cannot-allow-that-kind-of-conduct-to-continue>

Michigan - Official Investigation

- Press Release: <https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-88346---,00.html>
- Information Form: <https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359--477753--,00.html>
- Michigan Priest Charged with False Imprisonment by AGs Office, Believed to be Sexually Motivated: <https://www.legalreader.com/michigan-priest-charged-with-false-imprisonment-of-a-minor/>
- Priest To Stand Trial in Rape Case: http://www.pressandguide.com/news/former-dearborn-priest-set-to-stand-trial-in-child-rape/article_75e98d64-d8c7-11e9-81dc-0b23250b69ae.html
- Genesee County Priest Charged with Additional Count: <https://burtonview.mihomepaper.com/articles/nessel-charges-former-genesee-county-priest-with-additional-count-of-csc/>
- 17 Diocese of Lansing Priests Accused: <https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2019/09/27/catholic-diocese-lansing-sexual-abuse-scandal-priests/2356143001/>
- Charges Against Brighton Church Priest Dismissed: <https://www.livingstondaily.com/story/news/local/2019/10/02/sex-assault-charges-dismissed-priest-ties-brighton-church/3841505002/>
- Michigan Priest Pleads Guilty: <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2019/10/08/michigan-priest-pleads-guilty-assault-clergy-abuse-case/3912853002/>
- AG Nessel Announces Second Conviction: <https://www.arabamericanews.com/2019/11/20/attorney-general-nessel-announces-second-conviction-in-clergy-abuse-investigation/>
- AG Nessel Finds Abuse Allegations: <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2019/12/23/michigan-nessel-clergy-abuse-probe/2737645001/>
- AG Nessel Releases Update: <https://www.wilx.com/content/news/AG-Nessel-releases-update-on-clergy-abuse-investigation-566516761.html>
- Michigan Priest Faces Trial: <https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/01/michigan-priest-faces-trial-for-alleged-sex-abuse-of-teen.html>
- Spending Bill Provides Additional Funding for AG Investigation <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2020/03/25-million-for-coronavirus-preparedness-response-approved-in-michigan-senate.html>

- Former UP Priest Charged with more sexual assaults
<https://www.dailypress.net/news/local-news/2020/03/former-u-p-priest-charged-with-more-sexual-assaults/>
- Hearing on priest delayed:
<https://www.mininggazette.com/news/2020/04/hearing-on-priest-delayed/>

Minnesota: Attorney General does not have power to compel a grand jury under the law

- Attorney calls on Gov. Mark Dayton to convene grand juries to look into Catholic clergy abuse: <http://www.startribune.com/attorney-for-clergy-sex-abuse-survivors-calls-on-gov-dayton-to-convene-investigations-into-priests/491482141/>

Mississippi: Diocese of Jackson undertook an investigation

- Clergy and Religious credibly accused of abuse: <https://jacksondiocese.org/offices/child-protection/clergy-and-religious-credibly-accused-of-abuse/>

Missouri - Official Investigation

- Victim Abuse Resource Form: <https://ago.mo.gov/other-resources/clergy-abuse-resources/clergy-abuse-victim-resource-form>
- After Pennsylvania report on alleged church abuses, Missouri launches investigation. What will other states do?: <https://beta.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2018/08/25/missouri-becomes-first-state-to-announce-investigation-into-church-abuses-after-pennsylvania-report/?noredirect=on>
- Investigation Report: <http://ago.mo.gov/docs/default-source/press-releases/2019/catholicchurchclergyabuseinvestigationreport.pdf>
- 12 Clergy Referred for Prosecution by Attorney General:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/13/us/missouri-catholic-church-sex-abuse.html>
- Missouri's investigation is found to be slow:
<https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/one-year-later-missouris-clergy-investigation-stagnant-in-comparison-to-neighbors>
- Archdioceses of Kansas City Releases 19 Clerics with Substantiated Allegations of Abuse: <https://legalherald.com/kansas-city-missouri-roman-catholic-archdiocese-of-kansas-city-st-joseph-names-clergy-accused-of-sex-abuse/>
- Attorney General Concludes Investigation:
<https://www.krmsradio.com/attorney-general-no-region-of-the-state-spared-in-clergy-sex-abuse-scandal/>
- Attorney General Issues Investigation Report:
<https://www.eurasiareview.com/17092019-missouri-ag-report-on-catholic-church-issued-oped/>
- Dodge City Diocese Names 12 Clerics:
<https://www.gbtribune.com/news/local-news/dodge-city-diocese-names-clerics-accused-abuse/>
- AG's Priest Abuse Probe Yields First Charges:
<https://www.riverfronttimes.com/newsblog/2020/02/21/attorney-generals-priest-abuse-probe-yields-first-charges>
Accuser Surprised by Sex Abuse Charges:
<https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/crime/2020/03/11/ex-springfield-priest-frederick-lutz-sex-abuse-charges/5004555002/>

Montana: Attorney General unable to investigate under current law

- Sex Abuse Suit Filed against the Roman Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-billings:
http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2012/01_02/2012_02_09_Bennion_SexAbuse.htm

Nebraska

- Attorney General Information Page: <https://ago.nebraska.gov/news/safety-all-nebraskans-report-abuse>

Nevada: Las Vegas Diocese conducting an investigation

- Las Vegas Catholic Diocese reveals list of ‘33’ credibly accused of child sexual abuse:
<https://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-priest-abuse-vegas-diocese-20190412-story.html>

New Hampshire: No recent investigations

- 17 years ago, NH kicked off now-national clergy sex abuse scandal:
https://www.unionleader.com/news/religion/years-ago-nh-kicked-off-now-national-clergy-sex-abuse/article_968f71fc-1ad8-5215-800a-55bbce0db90e.html

New Jersey - Official Investigation

- Press Release and Hotline: <https://nj.gov/oag/newsreleases18/pr20180906a.html>
- New Jersey attorney general to investigate sex-abuse allegations among Catholic clergy:
<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/new-jersey/2018/09/06/nj-investigate-allegations-abuse-catholic-priests/1213487002/>
- New Jersey Priest gets 4 years in prison: <http://njtoday.net/2019/09/04/st-cecelias-sex-assault-priest-gets-4-years-in-prison/>
- Second Priest Charged in Investigations:
<https://www.nj.com/news/2019/09/2nd-priest-charged-with-sexual-assault-after-tip-to-attorney-generals-clergy-abuse-hotline.html>

New Mexico - Official Investigation

- Disclosure Demand Letter:
<https://www.nmag.gov/uploads/files/Attorney%20General%20Balderas%20Investigative%20Demands.pdf>
- Survivors of Sexual Abuse AG Page: <https://www.nmag.gov/survivors-of-sexual-abuse.aspx>
- New Mexico Launching Catholic Priest Sexual Abuse Investigation:
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-mexico-launching-catholic-priest-sexual-abuse-investigation/>

New York - Official Investigation

- AG Reporting Link: <https://ag.ny.gov/sexualabuse>
- AG Underwood Announces Clergy Abuse Hotline: <https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/ag-underwood-announces-clergy-abuse-hotline-part-investigation-sexual-abuse-children>
- AG Underwood Subpoenas Every Catholic Diocese in NY as Part of Broad Sex Abuse Investigation: <https://gothamist.com/news/ag-underwood-subpoenas-every-catholic-diocese-in-ny-as-part-of-broad-sex-abuse-investigation>

North Carolina: Attorney General unable to investigate under current law

- North Carolina bills would widen ability to investigate child sex abuse:
<https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/north-carolina-bills-would-widen-ability-investigate-child-sex-abuse>

North Dakota: only county prosecutors can prosecute criminal offenses

- Will more states follow Pa.'s lead and investigate priest abuse? Here's what they say: <https://www.ydr.com/story/news/2018/08/30/catholic-priest-abuse-after-pennsylvania-grand-jury-report-look-all-50-united-states-nation/1072279002/>

Ohio: Ohio does not allow for statewide investigations, according to Attorney General

- Victims of Abuse by Catholic Clergy call on Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine for action: <https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/local/ohio/victims-of-abuse-by-catholic-clergy-call-on-ohio-attorney-general-mike-dewine-for-action/95-602485875>

Oklahoma:

- Archbishop Coakley Announces Review, Reporting Plan: <https://archokc.org/news/archbishop-coakley-announces-review-reporting-plan>
- Diocesan Investigation has come under scrutiny after failing to release a report: <https://www.miamiok.com/news/20190903/survivor-groups-question-archdiocese8217s-investigation>
- Law Firm Releases Oklahoma City Clergy Abuse Report: <https://kfor.com/2019/10/03/law-firm-releases-77-page-oklahoma-city-archdiocese-clergy-abuse-report/>

Oregon: The Attorney General has taken no steps to investigate clergy abuse.

- “Jesuits West, which governs Jesuit priests in Arizona, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington released a list of 111 priests.” <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-a-catholic-sex-abuse-report-in-pennsylvania-echoed-around-the-u-s>

Pennsylvania - Official Investigation

- Grand Jury Report Website: <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/report/>
- Robert Brennan Arrested: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/crime/bs-md-cr-brennan-us-investigation-of-priest-sex-abuse-0906-20190906-xvwu2mq5zjd45nutasaw6ibnga-story.html>
- Investigation of Cleric Sex Abuse Produces First Charges: <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/460104-investigation-of-pennsylvania-clerical-sex-abuse-produces-first-charges>
- Attorney General Calls Out Diocese of Pittsburgh: <https://www.wpxi.com/news/investigates/attorney-general-calls-out-diocese-of-pittsburgh-bishop-for-lack-of-remorse-and-transparency/990764451>
- Allentown Priest Self Reports Sex Abuse: <https://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-nws-allentown-priest-removed-20190927-f2sgqoqj3rfm5hxlyw4fofdiii-story.html>
- Scranton Diocese Names Two Priests Accused of Abuse: <https://wnep.com/2019/10/10/diocese-of-scranton-names-two-more-priests-credibly-accused-of-abuse/>
- Lehigh County Priest Removed from Ministry: <https://www.phillyvoice.com/priest-sexually-abuse-minor-allegations-lehigh-county-bethlehem-pennsylvania/>

Rhode Island - Official Investigation

- Attorney General gains access to nearly 70 years of records from Diocese of Providence: <https://www.ri.gov/press/view/36360>
- State Police Open Clergy Abuse Hotline:

- <https://turnto10.com/news/local/ri-state-police-opens-hotline-dedicated-to-clergy-abuse-victims>
- Attorney General Report Could Be Released by End of 2020:
<https://www.providencejournal.com/news/20200206/ri-attorney-generals-report-on-clergy-sexual-abuse-could-be-delivered-by-end-of-2020-ag-says>

South Carolina: AG's Office cannot investigate under current law. Diocese of Charleston conducting investigation

- Catholic Church in South Carolina Names Priests Accused of Sex Abuse:
<https://www.wfae.org/post/south-carolina-catholic-church-names-priests-accused-sex-abuse#stream/0>
- Attorney General's Office: S.C. Grand Jury can't investigate church sex abuse:
<https://abcnews4.com/news/local/attorney-generals-office-sc-grand-jury-cant-investigate-church-sex-abuse>

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Diocese conducting investigation

- Sioux Falls Diocese names 11 priests accused of child sexual abuse:
<https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2019/03/21/sioux-falls-catholic-diocese-priests-accused-sexual-abuse-minors/3237715002/>

Tennessee: Diocese conducting investigation

- Nashville diocese releases names of 13 former priests accused of sexually abusing minors:
<https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/religion/2018/11/02/nashville-diocese-releases-names-13-former-priests-accused-sexually-abusing-minors/1855162002/>

Texas: Does not have jurisdiction to conduct investigations.

- AG Paxton Offers Assistance to Texas District and County Attorneys:
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-offers-assistance-texas-district-and-county-attorneys-they-investigate-catholic-priests>
- Public Still Demanding TX AG Investigate Catholic Clergy Sex Abuse:
<https://www.kxan.com/investigations/public-still-demanding-texas-ag-investigate-catholic-clergy-sex-abuse/>

Utah

- Attorney General Abuse Hotline Announcement: <https://attorneygeneral.utah.gov/clergy-abuse-hotline/>

Vermont - Official Investigation

- Task Force to Investigate Allegations of Murder and Abuse at St. Joseph's Orphanage:
<https://ago.vermont.gov/blog/2018/09/11/task-force-to-investigate-allegations-of-murder-and-abuse-at-st-josephs-orphanage/>
- Vermont's Roman Catholic Church Names 40 Priests Accused of Sex Abuse:
<https://www.thedailybeast.com/vermonts-roman-catholic-church-names-40-priests-accused-of-sex-abuse>
- Edmundites Released List of 10 Additional Names:
<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/priests-who-taught-lived-at-st-michaels-quietly-identified-as-accused/Content?oid=28561574>

Virginia - Official Investigation

- Attorney General Herring Launches Clergy Abuse Hotline:
<https://www.oag.state.va.us/media-center/news-releases/1299-october-24-2018-attorney-general-herring-launches-clergy-abuse-hotline>
- Clergy Abuse Hotline:

https://www.catholicerald.com/News/Local_News/NOTICE_Clifton_priest_admits_to_sexual_contact_with_a_minor/

- Diocese Responds to Announcement that Former Priest Charged with Abuse: https://www.catholicerald.com/News/Local_News/Catholic_Diocese_of_Arlington_responds_to_announcement_that_former_Capuchin_priest_is_charged_with_abuse/

Washington: No investigations of clergy sex abuse

Washington D.C. - Official Investigation

- Attorney General Online Complaint Form: https://oagdc.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new?ticket_form_id=360000330073

West Virginia - Official Investigation

- West Virginia's attorney general alleges Catholic Church allowed abusive priests to teach in schools: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/west-virginias-attorney-general-alleges-catholic-church-allowed/story?id=61782928>
- Attorney General Alleges Sex Abuse Cover Up in Wheeling-Charleston diocese: <https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/wv-ag-hits-back-at-diocese-alleges-sex-abuse-cover-up>

Wisconsin: Diocese conducting an investigation

- Madison Catholic Diocese hires detectives to probe clergy sexual abuse: https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/madison-catholic-diocese-hires-detectives-to-probe-clergy-sexual-abuse/article_afc2e437-999e-58c3-ab56-5aa004822e7c.html

Wyoming: The investigation is being undertaken by the police department.

- Cheyenne Police Department News Release: <http://www.cheyennepd.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/409>