

APPENDIX D



Sample Statements for the Press

From a bishop regarding allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by an ordained leader:

On [date], Bishop X, bishop of the Diocese of ABC, placed the Reverend Z on Administrative Leave after receiving allegations that he engaged in sexual contact with a minor. The bishop has notified the appropriate civil authorities. Care and support has been and will continue to be made available to all individuals affected and the congregation of St. B's, where Father Z was serving.

From a bishop in response to litigation filed against a parish and/or diocese for failing to protect children:

In [month and year], a bishop of the Episcopal Church learned for the first time of allegations that a minor had been sexually abused at [name of church] years earlier. In response, the bishop immediately reported this abuse to secular authorities as required by state law and the policies of the Episcopal Church. In addition, the bishop started a series of open discussions among the members of the parish to identify any other victims and to begin a transparent healing process in the community.

A disciplinary proceeding, in accordance with the canons (laws) of the Episcopal Church, would have commenced against Z, the priest of the parish at the time of the alleged abuse. This disciplinary action would have focused on Z's failure to report suspected abuse as required by state law and our church policies. Z has since renounced his orders as a priest in the Episcopal Church. This means Z is no longer a priest in the Episcopal Church and any church disciplinary proceedings would have no effect.

For many years the Episcopal Church has implemented strong policies to prevent any abuse of minors and to respond quickly and effectively to allegations of abuse. All those impacted by child sexual abuse remain in our prayers.