

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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In re:

Diocese of Winona-Rochester,

Debtor.

Bankruptcy Case No. 18-33707  
Chapter 11 Case

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**NOTICE OF THE TIME FOR TIMELY FILING PROOFS OF CLAIMS  
RELATING TO, OR ARISING FROM, SEXUAL ABUSE**

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**THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE.  
YOUR RIGHTS MIGHT BE AFFECTED.**

**TO ALL PERSONS WITH CLAIMS ARISING FROM SEXUAL ABUSE FOR WHICH  
THE DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER MAY BE LIABLE:**

**APRIL 8, 2019 IS THE LAST DATE TO TIMELY FILE PROOFS OF CLAIMS FOR  
SEXUAL ABUSE**

On November 30, 2018, The Diocese of Winona-Rochester (the “Diocese”) filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota (the “Court”). The Diocese’s address, the case number, proof of claim form, and other relevant information related to this chapter 11 case may be obtained at <http://www.dowr.org>. Individuals have asserted sexual abuse claims against the Diocese, on account of alleged actions by people associated with the Diocese. Any person who believes that he or she has, or may have, a claim arising from sexual abuse as that term is defined in Minnesota Statutes § 541.073(1), molestation, rape, undue familiarity, sexually-related physical, psychological or emotional harm, or contacts or interactions of a sexual nature between a child and an adult, or a non-consenting adult and another adult for which such persons believe that the Diocese may be liable should carefully read this notice.

**YOU SHOULD CONSULT AN ATTORNEY IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,  
INCLUDING WHETHER YOU SHOULD FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM.**

**LAST DATE FOR TIMELY FILING**

The Bankruptcy Court entered an order establishing April 8, 2019, as the last date for each Sexual Abuse Claimant to timely file a proof of claim. The Claim Filing Deadline and the procedures set forth below for Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Forms apply to all Sexual Abuse

Claims against the Diocese, based upon alleged acts of sexual abuse occurring prior to November 30, 2018.

### **WHO SHOULD FILE**

If you believe that you have a Sexual Abuse Claim, you should file a Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim to maintain and preserve any claims that you have against the Diocese. Even if you have already filed a lawsuit against the Diocese alleging sexual abuse prior to November 30, 2018, you should still file a Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form to maintain and preserve your rights in the Diocese's chapter 11 case.

### **WHO SHOULD NOT FILE**

You should not file a Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form if:

Your Sexual Abuse Claim has already been paid in full OR

You do not have a claim against the Diocese.

### **WHAT TO FILE**

**FILE A SEXUAL ABUSE PROOF OF CLAIM FORM, A COPY OF WHICH IS ENCLOSED. YOU MAY ALSO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE SEXUAL ABUSE PROOF OF CLAIM FORM BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW:**

### **PROCEDURES FOR FILING A SEXUAL ABUSE PROOF OF CLAIM FORM**

To file a Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form, take the following steps:

Fill out the Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form in its entirety.

For additional copies of the Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form: (a) photocopy the Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form; (b) contact the Diocese between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time), Monday through Friday; (c) visit the Diocese's website at: <http://www.dowr.org>; or (d) visit the website of the Bankruptcy Court at <http://www.mnb.uscourts.gov/>.

**Please note that the Court's Clerk's staff is not permitted to give legal advice. You should consult your own attorney for assistance regarding any such inquiries.**

Return the completed original Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form to the Bankruptcy Court Clerk at the address set forth below by the Claim Filing Deadline. Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Forms will be deemed timely filed only if they are **actually received** by the Clerk of Court by **April 8, 2019**.

If you are returning a Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form by mail, allow sufficient mailing time so that the Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form is received on or before **April 8, 2019**. Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Forms that are postmarked before that date, i.e., the Claim Filing Deadline, but which are received by the Clerk of the Court after the Claim Filing Deadline, will be considered tardy.

Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Forms should be delivered to the following address: Clerk of Court

U.S. Bankruptcy Court District of Minnesota  
200 Warren E. Burger Federal Building and United States Courthouse  
316 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Attention: Barbie

### **CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM**

There may be consequences for failing to file a claim. Please consult your attorney.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Filed Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Forms will remain confidential in this chapter 11 case, unless you elect otherwise in Part 1 of the Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form. Therefore, the Sexual Abuse Proof of Claim Form that you file will not be available to the general public, but will be kept confidential, except that information will be provided to the Diocese, the United States Trustee for the District of Minnesota, the Diocese's insurers, attorneys for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors and its members, any unknown claims representative appointed by the Bankruptcy Court, any settlement trustee appointed to administer payments to Sexual Abuse Claimants, prison authorities for any incarcerated Sexual Abuse Claimants, and such other persons as the Court determines should have the information in order to evaluate the Sexual Abuse Claim, all of whom will agree to keep the information provided by you confidential.

Dated: December 11, 2018