



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
Diocese OF Helena

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Regarding Complaint Filed in Silver Bow District Court

On July 27, 2020 - Attorneys for John and Heather Stenson, their minor child, and 5 unidentified minor children filed a civil complaint in Silver Bow District Court against Butte Central High School, Butte Central Schools, the Montana Catholic Conference, the Diocese of Helena, the Bishop of Helena and Amy Kadrmas. In the complaint, Amy Kadrmas is accused of providing cigarettes as a gateway to drug use and addiction and her husband Brad Kadrmas, a teacher at Butte Central Catholic High School, is accused of the sexual exploitation of minors.

This filing relates to a prior complaint against Amy Kadrmas. In December of 2019, following a report from a parent, Butte Central High School officials immediately notified law enforcement. She was subsequently arrested and charged with providing marijuana to minors and encouraging youths to use cigarettes and alcohol. She denies these charges and the criminal case is pending. Officials placed Brad Kadrmas on administrative leave for the remainder of the school year while an investigation took place. Related to these charges, the Stenson's and their minor child are seeking civil damages from Amy Kadrmas, Butte Central and the Diocese of Helena.

Upon learning of alleged sexual abuse for the first time on July 22, 2020, Butte Central High School officials immediately notified law enforcement. Including full cooperation with law enforcement, the Diocese of Helena's safe environment protocol mandates a preliminary investigation when abuse is reported against any volunteer or employee. If this investigation confirms abuse allegations: (1) Victims and their families are offered the provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups and/or other social services, (2) The alleged abuser is placed on administrative leave and (3) The diocese procures a thorough investigation.

Having contacted police, the Diocese of Helena requested that the Stenson's attorney provide the unidentified minor children's parent/guardian contact information. The Stenson's attorney declined this request. The diocese will continue to pursue a path for preliminary investigation but at this time cannot verify the alleged sexual abuse in this third-party complaint. No direct or verifiable reports or allegations of abuse by Brad Kadrmas have been made.

The Diocese of Helena does not tolerate any harmful action, especially abuse, toward children and takes all reported allegations seriously. We will continue to carefully look into this complaint and maintain close contact with law enforcement should an official investigation begin.

Regarding today's filing, Bishop Austin A. Vetter stated; "We take the responsibility to protect our children very seriously. Abuse towards a child is an evil and criminal act and is simply unacceptable. If a direct report of abuse is made about the accusations in this filing, we will take immediate action."

All questions, concerns or allegations related to sexual abuse in the Diocese of Helena should be directed to the Victim's Advocate in the Diocese of Helena. Any person who believes there is or has been abuse committed by a cleric, church worker or volunteer is encouraged to report the incident to law enforcement and contact the Victim's Advocate at: victimassistant@diocesehelena.org 406-459-0513

For media inquiries, contact: Don Peoples Jr., Butte Central Schools President (406) 782-6761

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