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# PRAESIDIUM ACCREDITATION<sup>®</sup>

FINAL REPORT

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*Marianists – U.S. Province*  
*May 11, 2022*

Review Period  
February 3, 2015 – August 8, 2020

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# PRAESIDIUM

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## INDEMNITY STATEMENT

**Praesidium provides Accreditation to assist in the prevention of organizational abuse. However, it must be noted that no system can guarantee prevention of abuse.**

When all recommendations are implemented and maintained, a risk for abuse continues to exist, as the problem of abuse is pervasive and no system to date can assure complete safety.

Accordingly, **PRAESIDIUM MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND MERCHANTABILITY, REGARDING THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE PRAESIDIUM ACCREDITATION® IN PREVENTING OR REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF ABUSE.** This information is not legal advice, either expressed or implied.

## Symbols Used in the Report

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Individual standards are rated on three levels of implementations:

<b>None</b>	The institute has implemented <i>none</i> of the requirements of the Standard.
<b>Partial</b>	The institute has implemented <i>some, but not all</i> of the requirements of the Standard.
<b>Full</b>	The institute has implemented <i>all</i> the requirements of the Standard.

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*Our mission is to help you protect  
those in your care from abuse  
and help you preserve trust  
in your organization.*

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## **STANDARD 1:**

The Institute responds pastorally and compassionately to any person who reports sexual abuse of a minor in order to promote healing for survivors of sexual abuse.



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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** Representatives of the Institute offer to meet in person with an individual who reports sexual abuse of a minor by a Member to promote the healing process and to understand how the sexual abuse has affected the individual. In situations where the survivor has legal representation, representatives of the Institute extend an offer to meet with the individual through their legal counsel. If this is not possible, the Institute will maintain documentation of the reason(s).
- R2.** The Institute provides written information to the individual to explain the process that the Institute typically follows in responding to an allegation.
- R3.** The Institute ensures the process it typically follows in responding to an allegation is publicly available.
- R4.** The Institute ensures all individuals who have approached the Institute since June of 2002 to report the sexual abuse of a minor have been advised of their right to report to civil authorities and encouraged to make a direct report.
- R5.** The Institute documents the response to all individuals who have reported the sexual abuse of a minor since June 2002, or since the date of the Institute's last Accreditation visit.

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## **STANDARD 2:**

The Institute has a survivor assistance coordinator to provide support for those who allege sexual abuse as a minor.



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## **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute ensures the survivor assistance coordinator(s) have education, training, and/or experience in the outlined content areas
- R2.** The Institute ensures survivor assistance coordinators have written guidelines for fulfilling their role.
- R3.** While the Major Superior may participate in providing a pastoral response, the Institute ensures he does not serve as the survivor assistance coordinator.

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## **STANDARD 3:**

The Major Superior of the Institute demonstrates competency in key areas of abuse prevention and response.



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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute ensures the Major Superior has education, training, and/or experience in the impact of child sexual abuse and how to promote healing for survivors.
- R2.** The Major Superior can describe the Institute's civil and ecclesiastical reporting requirements.
- R3.** The Major Superior can describe how he collaborates and communicates with the review board.
- R4.** The Institute has a written transition plan to ensure standards are maintained and critical information is not lost following changes in leadership, which should include, at minimum:
  - a.** A review of all allegations of sexual abuse and boundary violations from the previous five years;
  - b.** A review of all current Safety Plans, including risk evaluations, since the last Accreditation;
  - c.** The status of the Institute in the Accreditation process as well as the expiration of the current Accreditation;
- R5.** Institute documents a one-time review of the personnel files of all living current Members for any possible allegations of sexual abuse of a minor.
- R6.** The Institute ensures documentation of all allegations, reports, and responses concerning the sexual abuse of minors, including those identified in the R5 "one-time review" is accessible to the Major Superior and his successors.

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## **STANDARD 4:**

The Major Superior demonstrates transparency and commitment to the Members of the Institute.



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## **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute ensures the Major Superior or his delegate communicates annually to the Members regarding the Institute's commitment to the protection of minors.
  
- R2.** The Institute ensures the communication contains the status of the Institute in the Accreditation process, the expiration of the current Accreditation, if applicable, and information about any new reports or incidents of abuse that have occurred since the last communication, and the status of those reports or incidents.

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## STANDARD 5:

The Institute screens new Candidates for a history of sexually abusing minors or violating the boundaries of minors.

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### Requirements for Accreditation:

- R1.** The Institute requires each Candidate who has applied for membership into the Institute during the review period to complete:
- a.** A background check, which includes a multi-state criminal records search, a national sex offender registry check, a social-security-number trace and alias search, and an individual country level search in every country the Candidate has lived, worked, or attended school over the last seven years.  
  
If a background check is not possible due to the international limitations, the reason is documented.
  - b.** A minimum of three documented personal references (including at least one from a family member) and two professional references, for a total of five references.
  - c.** Face-to-face interviews with more than one representative of the Institute.
  - d.** A psychological evaluation conducted by a licensed psychologist.
  - e.** A psycho-sexual history conducted by either a licensed psychologist or a licensed mental health professional with skills in conducting psycho-sexual histories and in assessing psycho-sexual health in preparation for a life of celibate chastity.
  - f.** A review of publicly accessible content on all social media, personal blog sites, and websites associated with accounts controlled by the Candidate.
- R2.** The Institute ensures a Candidate who has an established allegation of sexually abusing a minor in his past, or who has acquired, downloaded, and/or intentionally viewed images of child abuse, will not be permitted to continue to Membership in the Institute.
- R3.** The Institute ensures vocation directors and formation directors are able, by education, training, or experience, to identify Candidates who may be at risk to sexually abuse a minor.



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## **STANDARD 6:**

The Institute provides specialized support and accountability at each stage in the initial formation of Members.

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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute ensures Members in formation are educated on how to develop a mature, integrated sexuality as a foundation for celibate chastity.
- R2.** The Institute ensures Members in formation are educated on appropriate boundaries, including cultural competencies and behavioral norms relevant to the ministries in which they serve.
- R3.** The Institute ensures Members in formation are encouraged to identify and address challenges to maintaining celibate chastity and healthy intimate relationships.
- R4.** The Institute ensures a Member in formation who sexually abuses a minor will be dismissed.
- R5.** The Institute ensures a Member in formation who is unable to maintain appropriate boundaries with minors, despite guidelines and instruction, will not be permitted to continue in formation.
- R6.** The Institute ensures Members in formation are educated about the requirements and procedures for reporting boundary violations, misconduct, harassment, and abuse to the proper criminal, civil, and ecclesiastical authorities.

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## STANDARD 7:

The Institute identifies and utilizes systems of support and accountability for its Members.

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### Requirements for Accreditation:

- R1.** The Major Superior can describe the Institute's systems of support and accountability for Members.
- R2.** The Major Superior demonstrates ongoing adherence to the Institute's systems of support and accountability for Members.
- R3.** The Institute ensures the Major Superior or his delegate meets at least annually with each Member and maintains a written record of the occurrence. It is not necessary to document the content of these meetings.
- R4.** The Institute communicates annually with any organization in which a Member is employed and ensures the communication includes the name and contact information of the Major Superior and is documented in some form.
- R5.** The Institute maintains a list of Members who are living outside the typical systems of support and accountability and ensures these Members have an individualized system of support and accountability or that they are re-engaged in the typical systems of support and accountability.
- R6.** The Institute has a written policy or protocol on support and accountability for those religious from other provinces or Institutes or diocesan priests who are residing in a house or community of the Institute.
- R7.** The Institute has a written plan for Members who are returning from ministry outside of the U.S., as well as for international Members who are coming for ministry within the U.S., and who are under the authority of the local Institute, which includes, at minimum, a review of the Institute's policies for boundaries with minors and an educational program that includes a discussion of the appropriate cultural boundaries.

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## **STANDARD 8:**

The Institute has established and published clear policies for boundaries with minors.

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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute's policies for boundaries with minors identify those interactions that the Institute prohibits for Members under all circumstances, including in social and familial settings and via electronic communications and social media.
- R2.** The Institute's policies for boundaries with minors identify positive forms of affection and demonstration of pastoral care that would be appropriate for Members under most circumstances.
- R3.** The Institute ensures Members know and can describe the policies for boundaries with minors.
- R4.** The Institute requires all Members to sign a statement indicating they have read and understand the policies for boundaries with minors at least once during each Accreditation cycle.

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## **STANDARD 9:**

The Institute educates its Members on the knowledge and skills necessary for preventing and responding to abuse.



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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute requires all Members in formation and those who serve in public ministry, even those who only occasionally serve in public ministry, to complete at least one educational program that includes the outlined topics.

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- R2.** The Institute requires all Members who serve in public ministry, even those who only occasionally serve in public ministry, to participate in a minimum total number of hours of education that is equal to the number of years in the Institute's Accreditation period.

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- R3.** The Institute ensures ongoing training programs include a variety of topics approved by Praesidium that support the prevention of abuse more broadly.

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## **STANDARD 10:**

The Institute interrupts and intervenes when a Member violates the Institute's policies regarding boundaries with minors.

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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute has a written process that defines how Members should respond when another Member allegedly violates policies regarding boundaries with minors and who is responsible for addressing these concerns.
- R2.** The Institute ensures Members know and can describe the process they should follow when another Member allegedly violates policies regarding boundaries with minors and can identify who is responsible for addressing these situations.
- R3.** The Institute requires the person identified as responsible for addressing concerns to document the inappropriate behavior(s) and the steps taken for intervention and ensures the documentation is maintained in a manner that is helpful for future Major Superiors and those who will have official responsibility for the Member.
- R4.** The Institute ensures the following when a Member has repeated boundary violations with a minor or when a minor is known to be in danger:
  - a.** The situation is presented to the review board.
  - b.** An intervention plan is implemented that outlines how the boundary violations with minors will be interrupted.
  - c.** The intervention plan is monitored for compliance.
- R5.** The Institute provides appropriate support to a Member who discloses to leadership that he is attracted to minors but has not behaved inappropriately with minors.
- R6.** The Institute immediately intervenes in situations where there is potential risk of harm to an identifiable minor.

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## **STANDARD 11:**

The Institute adheres to written protocols for responding to reports and allegations of sexual abuse of a minor and maintains documentation of adherence to those protocols in a manner that guarantees it will be available to future leadership.



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## **Requirements for Accreditation:**

**R1.** The Institute's written protocols for responding to reports and allegations of sexual abuse include:

- a. Responding to individuals who report sexual abuse of a minor.
- b. Responding to individuals who allege they have been sexually abused as a minor.
- c. Responding to Members who have been accused.
- d. Complying with reporting requirements.
- e. Protecting the rights of all those involved.
- f. Conducting investigations.
- g. Working with review boards.

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**R2.** The Institute's written protocols identify who, by role, is responsible for each part of the response to allegations of sexual abuse of a minor.

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**R3.** The Institute documents adherence to written protocols for all reports and allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by Members, including anonymous reports and allegations, which have been made since June of 2002, or since the last Accreditation site visit.

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**R4.** The Institute ensures documentation is maintained in a manner that guarantees it will be available to future leadership.

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## **STANDARD 12:**

The Institute reports known or suspected abuse of children who are still minors to civil authorities.

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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute ensures Members are educated in their obligations to report all allegations of known or mandatory reporting laws of the jurisdiction.
- R2.** The Institute requires Members to report all known or suspected sexual abuse of a survivor who is currently a minor to the appropriate authorities, whether alleged to have been perpetrated by a current, former, or deceased Member or a non-Member.
- R3.** The Institute requires Members to report known or suspected possession, distribution, downloading and/or viewing images of child abuse to appropriate civil authorities.
- R4.** The Institute reports known or suspected sexual abuse of a minor by a current, former, or deceased Member when the survivor is no longer a minor, as obligated by the civil laws of the state where the sexual abuse of the minor allegedly occurred.

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## **STANDARD 13:**

The Institute cooperates with civil authorities that are investigating an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor.

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## **Requirements for Accreditation:**

**R1.** The Institute cooperates with investigations of its Members by civil authorities.

**R2.** The Institute ordinarily suspends its own internal investigations until criminal investigations are concluded. Decisions to move forward with investigations during a criminal investigation are made in consultation with law enforcement.

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## STANDARD 14:

The Institute investigates all reports and allegations of sexual abuse of minors by a Member, to the extent possible, based on the information provided.

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### Requirements for Accreditation:

- R1.** The Institute has written procedures for investigating reports of sexual abuse of a minor by its Members.
- R2.** The Institute ensures the Major Superior, or his delegate, complete an initial investigation to determine a “semblance of truth”<sup>1</sup> when an allegation or report is received, including anonymous allegations.
- R3.** If at the conclusion of an initial investigation, there is a “semblance of truth,” the Institute ensures the Member against whom the allegations are made has no unsupervised access to minors during the pendency of a full investigation.
- R4.** If at the conclusion of an initial investigation, there is a “semblance of truth,” the Institute ensures a full investigation is conducted by trained, third-party individuals who will produce a written report.
- R5.** The Institute ensures all allegations of sexual abuse of a minor reported since June of 2002, or since the last Accreditation site visit, have:
  - a.** A documented investigation by trained, third-party individuals
  - b.** Documentation of the reason(s) an investigation is not possible or is not necessary

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<sup>1</sup> “Semblance of truth” is defined as “not manifestly false or frivolous.” A Resource for Canonical Processes for the Resolution of Complaints of Clerical Sexual Abuse of Minors (USCCB, Nov. 2003).

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## **STANDARD 15:**

The Institute demonstrates transparency in its response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute communicates with the diocesan bishop and/or the organization where the alleged abuse took place, as well as with the diocesan bishop and/or the employer where the Member is currently working or residing when:
- a. A report or allegation is received.
  - b. When an investigation is initiated.
  - c. When an investigation is complete.
- R2.** The Institute notifies the diocesan bishop and/or the organization where the alleged abuse took place, as well as with the diocesan bishop and/or employer where the Member is currently working or residing if an allegation is established or if a Member has admitted to the sexual abuse of a minor.
- R3.** The Institute has written protocols for communication with the Religious Institute, the faith community, and the public if an allegation is established or if a Member has admitted to the sexual abuse of a minor.
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## **STANDARD 16:**

The Institute utilizes a review board for the purpose of providing consultation to the Major Superior on the response to all reports and allegations of sexual abuse of minors.

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## **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute ensures the review board meets at least annually.
  
- R2.** The Institute ensures the review board consists of at least five members, with no more than two Members of the Institute.
  
- R3.** The Institute notifies the review board within 30 days of when an allegation or report of sexual abuse of a minor is received and when an investigation is complete.
  
- R4.** The Institute ensures the review board provides recommendations regarding the response to all reports and allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by a Member that have come forward since June of 2002, or since the date of the last Accreditation site visit.
  
- R5.** The Institute provides the review board with the following written documentation when considering allegations of sexual abuse of a minor against a Member:
  - a.** The original report or allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a Member that was submitted to the institute.
  
  - b.** The final written report of an investigation.
  
  - c.** All other allegations of sexual abuse by that Member.
  
  - d.** Any relevant disciplinary actions that have been taken in the past in regard to that Member and the reasons for the action.
  
- R6.** The Institute ensures the review board provides consultation regarding the disposition of the case in cases where alleged sexual abuse of a minor by a Member cannot be investigated or established.

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**R7.** The Institute ensures review board members are familiar with the outlined documents.

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**R8.** The review board has policies and standardized operating procedures, which include, at minimum, the following topics:

- a. Confidentiality.
- b. Constitution of the board.
- c. Terms of membership.
- d. Frequency of meeting.
- e. Media and communications.
- f. Records retention.
- g. Required training for review board members.
- h. How information will be disseminated to review board members.
- i. Possible alternatives for the disposition of cases.
- j. Timeframe allotted for providing response once an allegation has been received by the review board.

**R9.** The Institute documents that all allegations and reports of the sexual abuse of minors have been presented to the review board.

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## **STANDARD 17:**

The Institute maintains a written, individualized Safety Plan to guide the supervision of any Member against whom an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor has been established.

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## **Requirements for Accreditation:**

**R1.** The Institute ensures the written Safety Plan includes:

- a. A summary of the problem behaviors, which at a minimum will detail the number of survivors and the age and gender of the survivor(s).
- b. An Information about how the Member spends the majority of his time.
- c. Any applicable sex offender registry requirements, including parole or probation.
- d. A summary of the Member's risk assessment and the risk-reduction strategies, including:
  - Limitations on the Member's access to minors and how any such access is supervised.
  - Issues of personal relationships with friends and family, to ensure that the Member does not have unsupervised access to minors.
  - Monitoring of the Member's use of electronic communications, social media, and internet access.
  - Issues of financial accountability.
  - The Member's current living situation.
- e. How the Institute will address issues of aging as they relate to risk.
- f. The person responsible for the implementation of each risk-reduction strategy.
- g. Consequences for non-compliance with the Safety Plan.
- h. Dates on which the Safety Plan has been reviewed by the review board.

**R2.** The Institute ensures the written Safety Plan is signed by the Member, the Major Superior, and at least one individual who is directly involved in the supervision of the individual.

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**R3.** The Institute ensures implementation of the written Safety Plan and that the Member understands the consequences for non-compliance with the Safety Plan.

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## **STANDARD 18:**

The Institute ensures Members on a Safety Plan do not work in any position that allows access to minors or in any ecclesiastical ministry.

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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute ensures appropriate work for a Member on a Safety Plan is determined in consultation with the review board.
- R2.** The Institute ensures the specific assignment for a Member must be documented in the Safety Plan of the Member.
- R3.** The Institute communicates with any organization in which a Member on a Safety Plan is employed or volunteers in and ensures the communication includes a history of the problem behaviors, current restrictions, and the name and contact information of the Major Superior.
- R4.** The Institute ensures Members on Safety Plans do not hold an ecclesiastical office.

## **STANDARD 19:**

The Institute ensures Safety Plans are reviewed annually by the Major Superior and the review board to ensure ongoing compliance and the overall efficacy of the plan.

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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute has written protocols for regular documentation of compliance with Safety Plans, which include:
  - a.** Frequency of meeting between the supervisor and Member
  - b.** Frequency of meeting between the Major Superior and the supervisor
  - c.** A summary of the Member's current strengths and challenges under the Safety Plan
- R2.** The Institute ensures the Major Superior or his delegate evaluates and documents compliance with Safety Plans at least annually.
- R3.** The Institute ensures the review board reviews each new Safety Plan within 30 days of the Safety Plan's development.
- R4.** The Institute ensures the review board reviews each existing Safety Plan at least annually.
- R5.** The Institute ensures the review board receives a written report of compliance annually, which includes the Member's overall response to the Safety Plan, information about any violations to the Safety Plan, and information about any other boundary violations or misconduct.
- R6.** The Institute ensures the review board documents any recommendations offered to the Major Superior.
- R7.** The Institute ensures if a Member who is currently on a Safety Plan experiences any significant change in behavior, health status, the need for a change in residence, or a new allegation surfaces, his Safety Plan is reviewed as soon as possible by the Major Superior and any adjustments made to the Safety Plan for managing risk are communicated to the supervisor and review board immediately.



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## **STANDARD 20:**

The Institute has identified appropriate levels of supervision for Members who have Safety Plans.

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### **Requirements for Accreditation:**

- R1.** The Institute has determined and documented in the Safety Plan the level of risk for each Member on a Safety Plan at least once per accreditation cycle.
- R2.** The Institute ensures individuals who supervise do not have physical or emotional disabilities that prohibit their fulfillment of the function of supervision.
- R3.** The Institute ensures supervisors receive written guidelines regarding their role and procedures for supervision, including how to respond if the supervised Member violates his Safety Plan.
- R4.** The Institute ensures supervisors are trained regarding their responsibilities.
- R5.** The Institute identifies and utilizes systems of support and accountability for supervisors.
- R6.** The Institute ensures supervisors have adequate information to fulfill their duties to supervise, which may include relevant history of sexual abuse of a minor, all allegations of sexual misconduct, including those with adults, history of compliance with Safety Plans, current progress in treatment, if applicable, or information about treatment completion, and history of substance abuse and/or abuse if applicable.
- R7.** The Institute requires Members who have Safety Plans to live in a supervised setting with individuals who provide support and accountability and ensures at least one person in the community or residence is notified of the history of problem behaviors, current restrictions, and name and contact information of the Major Superior or supervisor.

## Glossary of Terms

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**Allegation.** A first-person accusation of sexual abuse of a minor brought against a current Member, former Member, or deceased Member which is reported to the Institute through any form of communication, including any that are anonymous.

**Candidate.** An individual who is applying for membership in an Institute.

**Images of Child Abuse or Child Pornography.** Any activity which involves a graphic depiction of a minor that is sexually explicit.<sup>2</sup>

**Confidential.** Private information which shall be kept restricted from others and only be disclosed to an authorized person for legitimate reasons of the Institute or because the disclosure is legally required.

**Confidential Documents.** Documents which are given confidential status as defined by the Institute in its policies and procedures and as required by canon and civil law and whose confidential status has been communicated to the Members of the Institute.

**Credible Allegation.** A credible allegation is one that has a semblance of truth and does not appear to be manifestly false or frivolous.

**Ecclesiastical Office.** An ecclesiastical office is a function established in a stable manner by divine or ecclesiastical authority to be exercised for a spiritual purpose such as the office of provincial, superior, bishop.

**Established Allegation.** Based upon the facts and the circumstances, there is objective certainty that the accusation is true and that an incident of sexual abuse of a minor has occurred.

[The judgment of the major superior must be based upon facts and circumstances discovered the course of the investigation, not on simple opinion. Established Allegation is not based upon a “preponderance of the evidence,” i.e. more likely to be true than not, which may be established by 51% or more of the evidence. Established Allegation is in keeping with the canonical standard of “moral certitude” which states that major superior recognizes that the contrary (that the allegation is false) may be possible, but is highly unlikely or so improbable, that the major superior has no substantive fear that the allegation is false.]

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<sup>2</sup> From a presentation given at the USCCB Promise to Protect seminar on September 13, 2007 by Kenneth V. Lansing, which was adapted from his work, *Cyber “Petriophiles”: A Behavioral Perspective*, Chapter 4 of *Prosecuting Internet Child Exploitation Cases* (James S. Peters ed., US Department of Justice, USA Book): “The legal definition of the term “child pornography” varies from state to state and under Federal law. Under most legal definitions, child pornography involves a visual depiction of a child that is sexually explicit. The Federal child pornography law defines a child (minor) as someone who has not yet reached his or her 18th birthday.”

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**High-Risk Member.** A Member who has sexually abused a minor in the past and is likely to sexually abuse a minor again if left untreated and/or unsupervised.

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## Glossary of Terms

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**Institute.** The individual religious province, association, monastery, abbey, congregation, society, or order that is seeking Accreditation.

**Major Superior.** The responsible leader according to the proper law of the Institute that is seeking accreditation.

**Member.** A person for whom an Institute is responsible according to canon law and the proper law of the Institute.

**Ministry:**

**Ecclesiastical Ministry.** Any ministry that is under the authority of a diocesan bishop.

**Public Ministry.** Any ministry that is under the authority of a diocesan bishop and/or under the sponsorship of a religious institute, and/or is undertaken with the permission of the major superior.

**Minor.** Anyone under the age of 18.<sup>3</sup>

**Report.** A third-party accusation of sexual abuse of a minor brought against a current Member, former Member, or deceased Member which is conveyed to the Institute through any form of communication, including any that are anonymous.

**Review Board.** A voluntary group of individuals with unique knowledge, expertise, and experience, who provide counsel and recommendations to the Major Superior in situations involving the sexual abuse of a minor.

**Risk Assessment.** The prediction of the degree of possibility of re-offense for someone with a known history of sex offenses.<sup>4</sup>

**Safety Plan.** A formal, written supervision program for an individual who, it has been established, has sexually abused a minor.

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<sup>3</sup> This definition of a minor reflects the stipulation of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (revised June 2011), which states that "For purposes of this Charter, the offense of sexual abuse of a minor will be understood in accord with the provisions of Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela (SST), article 6, which reads:

§1. The more grave delicts against morals which are reserved to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith are:

1o the delict against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue committed by a cleric with a minor below the age of eighteen years; in this case, a person who habitually lacks the use of reason is to be considered equivalent to a minor."

<sup>4</sup> According to Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA), risk assessment is "concerned with predicting the degree of possibility of a sexual re-offense for someone with a known history of sex offending . . . the task of risk assessment is to strike a scientific and ethical balance among the identification of offenders, while optimizing public safety."

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**Sexual Abuse of a Minor.** Contact or interaction between a minor and an adult when the minor is being used for sexual stimulation of the adult. This occurs when an adult engages a minor in any sexual activity, including direct sexual contact as well as sexual non-contact, such as frottage, exhibitionism, and the distribution, downloading, and/or intentional viewing of child pornography.