

OVERVIEW OF AGREEMENT
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER AND THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Agreement recites that :

- 1) The State initiated the process and it was identified as a criminal investigation.
- 2) The State invoked the authority of the Grand Jury which has significant authority in common law and state law.
- 3) The Diocese cooperated in the State's investigation.
- 4) The State indicates their intention to indict the Diocese.
- 5) The Diocese acknowledges that the State has evidence likely to sustain a conviction and, in the interest of the common good, consented to this Agreement.

The Diocese and the State agree to settle by Agreement to,

- 1) protect victims from the necessity of testifying in a criminal trial;
- 2) establish terms and conditions that will facilitate the protection of children to a greater extent than a criminal conviction and sentence; and
- 3) ensure a system of accountability, oversight, transparency, and training.

The salient points of the Agreement include:

- 1) The State agrees not to prosecute the Diocese.
- 2) The Diocese re-affirms its commitment to the mandatory reporting law for suspicion of child abuse or neglect.
The Diocese commits to common responsibility of church personnel to report suspicions of any other church personnel who may have sexually abused a child.
The Diocese commits to report suspicions made known by adults who allege child abuse as a minor.
The Diocese re-commits to a signed acknowledgement by all church personnel.
The Diocese re-commits to full cooperation with civil authority in investigations.
The Diocese re-commits to administrative leave for accused persons.
- 3) The Diocese re-commits to on-going training of all church personnel.
- 4) The Diocese agrees to an annual compliance audit by the State for a period of five (5) years.
- 5) The Diocese agrees to public disclosure of the Agreement.
- 6) The State commits to a public Report which includes their investigative files and the use of diocesan files obtained in their investigation (exclusively related to child sexual abuse).
The Diocese waives Grand Jury confidentiality for the above noted documents only.
The State agrees not to disclose mental health or medical records, but may cite from them.
The State agrees to allow the Diocese to review and dispute the public Report ten (10) days prior to its release.
The Diocese agrees to allow the State to review any public Response by the Diocese five (5) days prior to its release (no dispute right to State).
- 7) The Diocese and the State agree to right of amendment and to a "sunset provision" before the Superior Court on or before December 31, 2007.
- 8) The Diocese and the State agree to Superior Court jurisdiction for resolution of disputes regarding the Agreement.