

Child Injury Laws *Blog*

Vatican Named In Recently Filed Lawsuit Involving Childhood Sexual Abuse In Chicago Church

Posted by **Jonathan Rosenfeld** on May 25, 2011

In most jurisdictions an employer is responsible for the acts of their agent. Consequently, when an employee or agent commits a wrongful act and a person is injured, the employer is generally named as a party in the lawsuit. Yet in other circumstances, the employer may be named in a lawsuit where their agent apparently acted negligently, because they acted negligently in training or supervising their agent.

Albeit in an unusual corporate dynamic-- the Catholic Church-- a recently filed [sexual abuse lawsuit](#) attempts to broaden the employer / agent lines in terms of the Catholic Church. The Vatican was named in a recently filed lawsuit alleging [childhood sexual abuse](#) at a Chicago Church committed by admitted child molester, Daniel McCormack.

The lawsuit alleges that boys were sexually molested by Reverend Daniel McCormack at Chicago's St. Agatha Church. In addition to naming father, McCormack, the lawsuit claims that officials at the Vatican are similarly responsible for the abuse due to the fact that McCormack was furthering the interest of the church and that Church officials should have removed Father McCormack from his position after initial sexual abuse charges were made against him-- more than a year following the initial allegations.

Jonathan Rosenfeld offers legal services relating to: birth injuries, medical malpractice, day care abuse, foster care abuse, swimming pool injuries, automobile accidents, school bus accidents, dog bites, food poisoning, product liability, amusement park accidents and clergy abuse. For more information please visit Child Injury Laws Blog (<http://www.childinjurylaws.com/>) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757. (www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com.)

While this [childhood sexual abuse lawsuit](#) makes its way through the court system, it certainly does appear as though Church officials were at least 'slow' in their response to serious sexual abuse allegations levied against Rev. McCormack by other children.

Allegations against father McCormack were publicly announced in 2005 (when the Church became aware of the allegations is still unknown), yet the Church permitted him to remain in his position at St. Agatha's until criminal charges were formally brought against him.

In 2007 McCormack pleaded guilty to the childhood sexual abuse charges. After serving 2 1/2 years in prison, McCormack awaits a hearing as to whether he is indeed a sexual predator-- and hence potential incarcerated indefinitely.

While it will be interesting to see how the court rules with respect to the counts of the recently filed lawsuit against the Vatican, I'm not sure how much of an impact it will have on the eventual settlement / judgment involving these allegations. Even without being named in earlier lawsuits, the Archdiocese has already agreed to settle similar cases brought against McCormack for \$12.675 million.

Related:

[Despite The Recent Publicity, Children Continue To Remain Susceptible To Abuse From Clergy](#)

[Parish Held Responsible In Lawsuit Involving Sexual Abuse By Priest](#)

[Vatican Faces Lawsuit Over Sexual Abuse By Chicago Priest](#), May 11, 2011 CBS Chicago

Jonathan Rosenfeld offers legal services relating to: birth injuries, medical malpractice, day care abuse, foster care abuse, swimming pool injuries, automobile accidents, school bus accidents, dog bites, food poisoning, product liability, amusement park accidents and clergy abuse. For more information please visit Child Injury Laws Blog (<http://www.childinjurylaws.com/>) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757. (www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com.)