



## MEMO

TO: All Pastors and Parish Life Coordinators  
FROM: Aurea Sadi, Communications  
DATE: December 2, 2022  
RE: Claims Period of Class Action Suit **\*ACTION REQUIRED\***

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As mentioned by Archbishop Dunn yesterday during the Pastors Meeting., below is information regarding the next period of notification regarding the class action.

On November 14, 2022, the settlement of the class action suit against the Episcopal Corporation of Halifax and the Episcopal Corporation of Yarmouth was approved. Now we enter the **Claims Period**. Individuals who want to make a claim of abuse can do so for the next 12 months. This begins another period of notification to the public which requires action on the part of the Archdiocese as well as the parishes. This notification period begins on **Monday, December 19, 2022 and concludes on Thursday, December 14, 2023**.

Similar to previous notification periods we are required *by law* to post notice of the Claims Period. This notice is to be posted: digitally on the diocesan website and all parish websites; distributed via the diocesan and parish bulletins be they printed and/or electronic; and a printed copy posted on a wall or bulletin board in a high traffic area of the church building. The required texts have been provided in two formats:

- Long Form Notice of Settlement Approval
- Short Form Notice of Settlement Approval

PDFs of both these documents are attached. Detailed instructions regarding how each of these notices are to be used are below. Both documents must be posted *in their entirety and as written* on our websites and in our bulletins starting on **December 19, 2022 until December 14, 2023**.

### Directions for Public Notice of the Settlement Approval

As part of the terms of the Claims Period, the diocese and our parishes are legally required to take the following actions as stated in court documents:

- *... place a copy of the Short Form Notice in a conspicuous area, such as the parish public bulletin board, in each of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Halifax and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Yarmouth parishes and their worship sites for the duration of the Claims Period;*

- *...post a copy of the Long Form Notice in a conspicuous area on the websites of each parish, that has an active website, of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Halifax and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Yarmouth for the duration of the Claims Period;*
- *...post a copy of the Long Form Notice on the website of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth at [halifaxyarmouth.org](http://halifaxyarmouth.org) for the duration of the Claims Period;*
- *...include the Short Form Notice in the parish bulletins of each parish of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Halifax and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Yarmouth during the Claims Period;*
- *...distribute the Short Form Notice electronically on its Halifax-Yarmouth News Service during the Claims Period;*

To comply with the above directives, parishes are please asked to:

***Post the Long Form Notice as follows...***

1. Post the attached **long form notice**, without any changes, in PDF form on your website. Because it is a lengthy document you may want to dedicate a specific page/space on your website for the notice.
2. Create a button or box on the **front page** of your parish website that clearly directs visitors to the notice. Suggested wording for that button or box: Notice of Settlement Approval of Class Action Against the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth – Click here.
3. This notice **cannot** be altered in any way and must go “live” on **Monday, December 19, 2022**. It is to remain live on the parish website until **December 14, 2023**.

***Post the Short Form Notice as follows...***

1. Post the attached **short form notice**, without any changes, in your parish bulletins (electronic and/or printed) on the *last weekend* of every month **starting with December 30-31** and continue to include it once a month **until December 14, 2024** .
2. Post the attached short form notice, without any changes, on a conspicuous bulletin board or wall in your church building from **December 19, 2022 to December 14, 2023**.

The Long Form Notice will be posted on [www.halifaxyarmouth.org](http://www.halifaxyarmouth.org) and a short form of the notice will also be posted to the weekly Halifax-Yarmouth News Service once month.

During the last notification period, the lawyers for the class action questioned if all parishes posted the notices. It is imperative that we follow the posting directions given. Failure to do so could lead to an objection from class counsel and a delay in the already lengthy and complicated class action process.

Please share the above information with parish staff who oversee your parish communications.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

We are updating the Frequently Asked Questions document and will circulate it as soon as we are able.

Questions and any media inquiries about the class action are to be directed to Aurea Sadi: 902.429.9800 ext. 310, cell: 902.802.5486 or email: [asadi@halifaxarmouth.org](mailto:asadi@halifaxarmouth.org)

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Let us continue to pray for all involved in this difficult and challenging endeavour.