



## Archdiocese of Seattle Reaffirms Commitment to Victim Survivors

Seattle, July 12, 2024 – Today King County Superior Court Judge Michael Scott ruled that the attorney general does not have legal authority to enforce a subpoena against the Archdiocese of Seattle, specifically noting that the religious exemption in the Charitable Trust Act stands.

Nevertheless, the Archdiocese of Seattle is committed to transparency and accountability to help those who have been harmed heal and to rebuild trust. The Archdiocese of Seattle remains steadfast in its offer to collaborate with the attorney general in a lawful manner.

“Sexual abuse in the Church is a heart-wrenching part of our history, and I am deeply sorry for the pain caused to victim survivors, their families and all Catholics,” said Archbishop Paul D. Etienne. “We remain focused on the need for healing and proper governance in these matters. While ironing out the legalities is important, I take no pleasure in today’s outcome. Because we are committed to preventing abuse, promoting transparency and continuously improving our processes, my offer to collaborate with the attorney general still stands.”

To report any suspicion of abuse by any Catholic Church personnel, please contact local law enforcement. In addition, anyone who has knowledge of misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or a volunteer of the Archdiocese of Seattle is urged to call the archdiocesan hotline at 1-800-446-7762.

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