



standard 4

care and management of the respondent
guidance for indicator 4.3



4.3A Template 1: Example Decree Initiating Preliminary Investigation (Clerics)

I have received an allegation of child sexual abuse which may be a violation of the 6th Commandment [INSERT CANON LAW REFERENCE] in relation to [INSERT NAME OF RESPONDENT] a cleric in [INSERT NAME OF CHURCH BODY].

I hereby decree that a preliminary investigation under Canon 1717 is to be undertaken and I am appointing [INSERT NAME OF DELEGATED PERSON] as an auditor to conduct the preliminary investigation in accordance with Canon 1717.

The purpose of the preliminary investigation is to establish if [INSERT NAME OF RESPONDENT] has a case to answer.

In conducting the investigation, the auditor will provide me with information to assist my decision making.

The appraisal of the auditor may be helpful to me as the ordinary in coming to a determination[DELETE THIS LINE IF APPRAISAL IS NOT REQUIRED].

Throughout this process those acting on this decree are to ensure the reputation of all those involved are not put at risk of harm in accordance with Canons 1717.2 and 220.

[INSERT NAME OF RESPONDENT] is hereby reminded of the privilege of self-incrimination. This decree is effective on [INSERT DATE]

INSERT SIGNATURE OF CHURCH AUTHORITY and SEAL

INSERT SIGNATURE OF VICAR GENERAL/CHANCELLOR