



September 9, 2015

## The Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania Policy on Church Attendance of those who have violated the Orthodox Church in America's Sexual Misconduct Policy and/ or those who have been convicted of crimes against children

1. Anyone who was brought before a Spiritual Court of the Church, wherein accusations of sexual misconduct with a minor are more than likely to have occurred, than not to have occurred, will be subject to the following Policy. Though there may be no criminal conviction due to statutes of limitation, the person is to be monitored in the same manner as a convicted offender for the safety of the children and to protect him or her from potentially false allegations.
2. Additionally, anyone who has been convicted of the offenses outlined below, been on a probated sentence or received deferred adjudication for any offense outlined below, or has presently pending any criminal charges for any offense outlined below until a determination of guilt or innocence has been made, including any person who is presently on deferred adjudication is also subject to this Policy:
  - a. Any offense against minors as defined by state law.
  - b. A misdemeanor or felony offense as defined by state law that is classified as sexual assault, indecency with a minor or adult, assault of a minor or adult, injury to a minor or adult, abandoning or endangering a minor, sexual performance with a minor or adult, possession or promoting child pornography, enticing a minor, bigamy, incest, drug-related offenses, or family violence.
  - c. A prior criminal history of an offense against minors.

**The DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA** may allow a person known to be a sexual offender to remain or become a member of the parish but they must adhere to specific guidelines. The Rector will first check, however, with the offender's probation/parole officer for any restrictions regarding attending services or other functions where children are present. Ask the probation/parole officer to put any restrictions in writing. If restrictions do not prohibit offender participation, the following additional four requirements must be implemented and remain in force at all times involving any known sexual offender:

1. The convicted sexual offender cannot participate in any of the child or youth programs in any way;
2. The convicted sexual offender can only participate in a predetermined service each week; and
3. The convicted sexual offender must report in and be assigned to an escort who will accompany him or her at all times.
4. The parish needs to be made aware that a convicted sex offender is attending. However, the name does not need to be disclosed.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Bp Mark

Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania