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For Immediate Release  
Thursday, December 2, 2010

**BISHOPS FILE MOTION FOR CLERGY ABUSE SURVIVOR TO PAY BISHOPS' LEGAL FEES; CALL TO ACTION AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS RESPOND**

Two bishops in Minnesota have filed a legal motion to force a survivor of clergy sexual abuse to pay \$132,000 so that the bishops may recoup their legal costs incurred fighting against his claims in court.

The bishops' move sends a chilling and intimidating signal to other sexual abuse survivors who may be considering coming forward after years of suffering silently with their wounds.

"We know that intimidating tactics like these only serve to perpetuate a culture of secrecy where truth is not welcome and justice is denied," says Jim FitzGerald, Executive Director of Call To Action. "While recouping legal costs may be a tactic in corporate culture, this is no way for our moral leaders to behave."

Call To Action joined with SNAP, the Survivor's Network of those Abused by Priests, and the National Survivor Advocate Coalition today in issuing the letter below to these two bishops requesting that they withdraw their legal motions. BishopAccountability.org also issued a separate letter.

LETTER TO WINONA BISHOP JOHN QUINN  
AND MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL ARCHBISHOP JOHN NIENSTEDT

From Leaders of the following organizations:

Call To Action ([jim@cta-usa.org](mailto:jim@cta-usa.org), [nicole@cta-usa.org](mailto:nicole@cta-usa.org), 774 404 0004)  
National Survivor Advocate Coalition ([kristineward@hotmail.com](mailto:kristineward@hotmail.com), 937 272 0308)  
Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests ([snapclohessy@aol.com](mailto:snapclohessy@aol.com), 314 566 9790)

We are deeply saddened that you are trying to force an alleged child sex abuse victim to pay \$132,000 for diocesan legal costs in a clergy sex abuse and cover up lawsuit. You must know that your unusual legal maneuver sends a distressing signal to Catholics who want their shepherds to act responsibly and compassionately. And you must know that it sends a depressing signal to those who saw, suspected and suffered clergy sex crimes and cover ups.

Regardless of your intent, this maneuver will make children in the church less safe, by discouraging those with information about known and suspected child sexual abuse from speaking up.

We ask that you both promptly reconsider this move, rescind it, and publicly pledge to never do it again. We also ask that you publicly apologize to Mr. Keenan, his loved ones and your flock.

(Archbishop Neinstedt, we understand from news accounts that you have said you will suspend your effort to collect your portion of this fund for now. That, however, is disingenuous, since the alleged victim is in bankruptcy and thus his assets are frozen and you are legally powerless now to try and collect. That is also disappointing, because we believe you should abandon this hurtful move regardless of the finances of this, or any, alleged child sex abuse victim.)

Please pray hard about this, search your consciences, stop playing legal hardball here and do what's right.

Thank you.