

FAQs related to CVA

Many people have questions related to the Child Victims Act and how it might impact the Diocese as well as parishes and schools. Below are some common questions and answers based upon current circumstances. If and when things change, we will continue to update this list and provide additional information as necessary.

The Diocese is committed to accompanying survivors in their healing. We continue to encourage victims to come forward so that we can do whatever possible to assist them on their journey.

How many cases have been filed since the CVA lookback window opened August 14?

To date, there are 41 cases. However, a number of these cases involve institutions independent from the Diocese or involve members of religious orders and communities not under diocesan jurisdiction.

Where will the Diocese get funds to resolve CVA cases?

We expect any payments related to CVA cases will be paid from the Diocesan Self-Insurance Program and applicable insurance carriers.

The Diocese is in the process of performing an in-depth study of its insurance coverage. Insurance carriers are being notified of cases and claims as we receive them. The Diocese has also engaged specialized insurance recovery counsel.

Will there be cuts to Pastoral Center staff and/or programs?

We provide direct support services through the Pastoral Center. Because these are essential to the ministries and mission of the Diocese, we do not desire to make cuts. Our entire diocesan operational budget is funded through the annual Bishop's Appeal. In order for services to continue, the Diocese relies on the generosity of donors to that appeal.

Is the Diocese considering Chapter 11 bankruptcy?

Until we know the full financial scope of the CVA as it relates to the Diocese, we cannot and will not make any decisions. We continue to respond in justice to survivors of abuse and urge anyone who has suffered such abuse to come forward. Regardless of what happens down the road, the mission and ministries of the Diocese will continue.

Is the diocesan pension safe?

The Lay Employees' Pension Plan has sufficient assets to provide for all accrued benefits and is able to make all expected payments to participants. Each year, outside experts with an independent actuarial firm verify the plan's funding status. As of the last available valuation, July 1, 2018, the plan was certified to be 97% funded.

Would separate legal entities and affiliates of the Diocese have any involvement in potential bankruptcy proceedings?

The only potential financial exposure for these separate entities may be to the extent of funds they owe to the Diocese.

Will contributions to the Bishop's Appeal be used to cover costs associated with CVA cases?

The Bishop's Appeal is dedicated to the various programmatic and operational ministries of the Diocese. The revenue from the Appeal has not been used in past years and will not be used in the 2019-20 fiscal year to fund CVA-related costs.

Could the Re-Igniting Our Faith campaign be affected by CVA?

The Re-Igniting Our Faith Foundation is a 501c(3) public charity, independent from the Diocese of Albany. Not one cent of monies donated to the Re-Igniting Our Faith Campaign will be used for any purpose other than that which is stated in the parish and diocesan campaign cases.

Will diocesan high schools, Catholic Charities and other affiliated programs funded by the Bishop's Appeal be affected?

Diocesan high schools, Catholic Charities and other affiliated organizations are separate legal entities. There may be an effect on organizations that receive a direct allocation from the Diocese.

Will our parish or school be impacted?

To the extent which they do not owe funds to the diocesan corporation, a parish and its school will not be affected.

If I put money in the Sunday collection, will it go toward CVA-related expenses?

Funds donated to parishes, including Sunday collections, will remain at the parish to support its budget, ministries and other financial obligations.

Are parish and school pensions safe?

As with the diocesan pension plan, contributions from employees and employers are paid into a trust fund that has been set up solely for the benefit of plan participants with Trustco Bank. These contributions, together with investment earnings of the trust fund, are used to finance plan benefits. Fund assets are always held in a separate trust and are not co-mingled with other diocesan assets. This protects the plan and plan assets from legal claims that might be brought against the Diocese.

The Diocese of Albany urges anyone who has been abused to contact local law enforcement as well as our diocesan Assistance Coordinator at (518) 453-6646 or assistance.coordinator@rcda.org

