

August 1, 2022

Most Reverend Edgar da Cunha
Bishop of Fall River
450 Highland Avenue
Fall River, MA 02720

Dear Bishop da Cunha:

In accordance with our recent audit of the Diocese of Fall River, the following topics are being brought to your attention. These topics do not affect your compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*; they are simply suggestions for your consideration.

Article 12 & 13:

Topic: The Diocese currently utilizes multiple databases, that requires a manually intensive process to consolidate, in order to track and monitor those who are required to be background checked and safe environment trained.

Suggestion: We encourage the Diocese to continue their efforts in reviewing the efficiencies and capabilities of utilizing a central database to track all background and safe environment requirements.

General Comments:

Topic: As part of our on-site audit, we visited 4 parishes and 2 schools. Based upon our discussions with parish/school personnel and review of documentation, we noted the following issues:

1. Upon our discussions with parish/school personnel and review of documentation, we noted that display of Safe Environment reporting information was not consistently posted in public areas of the parishes and schools.

2. The parishes and school annually submit information regarding the number of children enrolled, trained, opted out and absent during safe environment training, however, once their information is submitted they can not retrieve it for their records.

Suggestion: We suggest the Diocese consider recirculating posters, pamphlets and/or brochures on how to report an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor and provide it to all parish and school locations for them to publicize. Additionally, we suggest that the annual youth training submission form be modified to allow for parishes/schools to save or print a copy of the submitted information.

By signing below, you attest that you have read and received our suggestions for the July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022 *Charter* audit process.

Most Reverend Edgar da Cunha

Bishop of Fall River

Thank you for the efforts that you are taking to protect the children and young people in the Diocese of Fall River. Please return a signed copy via email to USCCBCharterAudits@StoneBridgeBP.com at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

StoneBridge Business Partners

StoneBridge Business Partners
Rochester, New York

cc: Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection
Carolyn Shipp, Director of Safe Environment and Victim Assistance, Diocese of Fall River