



The Diocese of Knoxville

Sept. 17, 2019

Effective immediately, the Diocese of Knoxville has terminated the contract of Mr. William Lovelace as an employee of the diocese without the possibility of him being rehired.

In 2018, the Diocese of Knoxville was presented with sexual abuse allegations made by Mr. Michael Boyd against two now-deceased clergy, Monsignor Xavier Mankel and Bishop Anthony O'Connell.

The accusations were thoroughly investigated by a highly qualified criminal defense attorney who was not connected to the Diocese of Knoxville. The investigator's report said there was no finding of credible evidence to support Mr. Boyd's allegations.

A year later, in July 2019, Mr. Boyd filed a lawsuit against the diocese which contained new names and new allegations, including accusations against Mr. Lovelace.

The Diocese of Knoxville immediately investigated these new accusations, including the ones against Mr. Lovelace, and the investigation found no credibility to Mr. Boyd's claims.

However, during the investigation issues unrelated to the lawsuit or Mr. Boyd surfaced that led the diocese to the decision to terminate Mr. Lovelace's employment.

The decision to terminate Mr. Lovelace's employment should not be construed as a judgement in support of the merits of the Boyd lawsuit.