Preponderance of evidence is defined as: Is it more likely than not that the incident occurred? The standard of moral certainty is required in any subsequent canonical process.

How the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Handles Reports of Clergy Sexual Abuse

Report received by Archdiocese and referred to District Attorney

DA pursues criminal investigation

DA does not pursue case and returns case to Archdiocese

Cleric placed on temporary leave

Case resolved through legal process

Guilty

Not guilty, acquitted or dismissed

Promoter of Justice informed, canonical process initiated, preliminary investigation conducted by private investigator, cleric placed on c. 1722 leave

Investigation conducted, report sent to Review Board; further investigation at discretion of the Board; accused / accuser informed that case is ready for examination by Board and given 10 days to produce any final statements or proofs

Review Board studies investigative report; using a standard of “preponderance of evidence¹,” Board arrives at its conclusion whether or not the allegation has been substantiated and sends that recommendation to the Archbishop. Board makes recommendation to the Archbishop about the cleric’s suitability for ministry.

Canonical action by the Archbishop: referral of case to CDF if substantiated; issue decree of exoneration if unsubstantiated.

¹ Preponderance of evidence is defined as: Is it more likely than not that the incident occurred? The standard of moral certainty is required in any subsequent canonical process.

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