

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Norm Maleng
Prosecuting Attorney

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12 April 2002

Timothy D. Kasnoff
Bellevue Place Building
800 Bellevue Way N.E. Suite 300
Bellevue, WA 98004-4229

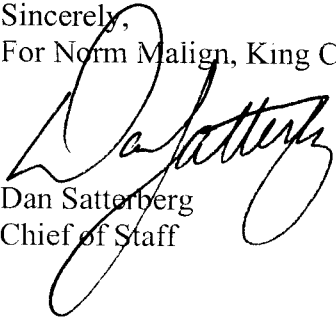
Dear Mr. Kasnoff,

Norm Maleng has received and reviewed your letter of 10 April and referred it to me for a response. We too have been following the stories of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church as they have unfolded across the country. In many of those cases the official responses have been to cover-up and hide the criminal misconduct in a misguided effort to protect the Church. That has obviously backfired.

We are not aware that any comparison can be made between the Boston situation and the Seattle Archdiocese. We have been invited, beginning a decade ago, to assist the Seattle Archdiocese with formulating a policy that is in compliance with state law regarding mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse. We are continuing to work with local officials of the church to perfect the policy and practice in this area.

We have no evidence that local church officials have violated the mandatory reporting law. We have no legal basis to seek search warrants to seize records from the Archdiocese as you recommend. If you have actual knowledge of a criminal act of failing to report child abuse, please contact the police. If you would prefer to offer that evidence to our office, I would be more than willing to meet with you.

Sincerely,
For Norm Maleng, King County Prosecuting Attorney:


Dan Satterberg
Chief of Staff