



Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR THE ANNUAL SURVEY OF ALLEGATIONS AND COSTS

An **allegation** is defined as one victim alleging an act or acts of abuse by one alleged perpetrator.

An allegation can be:

Credible – determined to bear the “semblance of truth” (i.e., has been sufficiently substantiated by a preliminary investigation to be forwarded to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for action according to Canons 1717 and 1719). In the case of an allegation against a deceased perpetrator, the allegation is credible if it meets the criteria for forwarding to the Congregation. In addition, if a diocese or eparchy pays out funds in a settlement for an allegation, that allegation is being treated as credible by the diocese or eparchy and so should be categorized as credible.

Unsubstantiated – determined by a preliminary investigation that sufficient evidence exists to demonstrate that the allegation did not occur as claimed.

Obviously false – determined by a preliminary investigation that allegation could not possibly have occurred (e.g., alleged perpetrator or alleged victim was not alive at the time).

Unable to be proven – determined by a preliminary investigation that insufficient evidence exists to conclude that the alleged abuse did, or did not occur.

Investigation ongoing – preliminary investigation underway or awaiting final determination of credibility. Also, included here are those allegations which – during some investigations conducted by civil authorities – dioceses and eparchies temporarily are not permitted to conduct their own investigation.