



## San Francisco List of Accused Priests: How the List was Built

**Unlike lists released by church officials on their own, SNAP did not have access to the Bishop's Archives that have been used to obfuscate and minimize abuse in the past, so we are sure that there are more names out there. Despite lacking that access, however, this list was built by incredible survivor advocates and volunteers who scoured legal documents, online databases, and public church records to uncover the names of these 312 alleged abusers.**

On this page you can find a basic explanation of the main sources of information for this list, links to where you can find this kind of information for yourself, and other details related to the construction and vetting of this list.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that parents and parishioners are informed, that children are protected, and that survivors are supported. If you want to help us with this goal, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) or [donate towards our mission](#).

### How the List was Built

- The list was primarily created via forensic analysis of existing information in the public sphere. By cross referencing databases and publicly available information, known abusers could be shown to have either worked or lived in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.
- There were **five** main sources of information for this list. They can be generally summarized as:
  - **The Official Catholic Directory**, a list of priests published annually by the Catholic Church itself. This directory helps narrow down the movement of priests, the time priests spent in certain areas, and any discrepancies in their work record.
    - For example, when Thomas O. Morrow was declared an abuser by his home Diocese of Brooklyn, he was listed as "on leave" for three years. The OCD showed that, for at least one of those years, Morrow was in fact in San Francisco. Because he was a credible abuser who worked in SFAD, he therefore should be included on their list.
  - **Names included on Bishop Accountability** that could be traced back to San Francisco. BA is the most authoritative resource available on public data released regarding clergy abuse, and their extant database helped the early formation of this SF specific list.
  - **Lists released by each of the other California dioceses and archdioceses** revealed the names of priests from and within San Francisco who had been credibly accused.



- **Lists released by Religious Orders** (such as the Jesuits or Franciscans) that included the names of credibly accused abusers who were sent to or lived in San Francisco.
- **Files released as part of litigation**, largely as a result of the multiple Windows to Justice that California has passed that have allowed survivors to bring cases forward. Similarly, plaintiff's attorneys involved in CA litigation have released databases of their own.
  - An example of this is that of Stephen Kiesle, who in civil depositions revealed that he had gotten permission, while on probation, to say mass in the Diocese of Santa Rosa. Even though church officials in Santa Rosa do not admit this fact, it is clear from Kiesle's own admission in his deposition.
- **Media reports** of abusive priests in which a connection to San Francisco can be established via work history or other church documents.
- All of the names that were initially collected then went through multiple internal vetting processes. Each link or connection was examined to make sure that the connection to SFAD was genuine and traceable. **A version of this list with all of the associated documentation can be made available upon request.**
- This list was chiefly compiled by Dan McNevin, SNAP's longtime Bay Area leader and Treasurer on SNAP's Board of Directors. Absent his vision, dedication, and attention to detail, such a list would not have been created, and we know people are safer due to his work.