



Diocese of Salt Lake City

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PRESS RELEASE

Accusation of Clergy Misconduct

July 28, 2025

The Diocese of Salt Lake City received a claim of sexual misconduct dated December 12, 2024 involving a foreign priest ministering in Utah in the early 1990's, Fr. Heriberto Mejia from the Diocese of Villavicencio, Colombia. This clergy member was permanently removed from ministry in the Diocese and left Utah in later 1992 for reasons unrelated to sexual misconduct.

The Diocese takes allegations of sexual abuse of minors seriously. The allegation was officially reported to law enforcement by the Diocese *and hired two retired law enforcement agents to conduct an independent investigation.* After the Diocese received the report of the independent investigation it was provided to the *Independent Review Board* comprised of employees of the diocese and outside professionals (legal, psychological, healthcare, education, and more). Their consultation and review was provided to Bishop Oscar A. Solis on July 16, 2025 and he is in the process of making determinations.

Currently, an additional internal investigation is underway. It is important that the Diocese is thorough in its internal investigation and determinations for the sake of truth, justice, and healing. The Diocese has no further comment at this time.

The Diocese remains committed to ensuring the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults and providing pastoral outreach to victims and survivors of sexual abuse by clergy. *Let us continue to pray for all the victims of sexual abuse and for their families. We request anyone who has any information regarding this allegation or other sexual abuse of a minor to contact the Office of Safe Environment and the Salt Lake City Police Department.*

For more information about the Diocese's abuse prevention efforts, please visit our website.

<https://dioslc.org/safe-environment>

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