

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT  
HARTFORD DIVISION**

**In re:**

**THE NORWICH ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESAN CORPORATION,**

**Debtor.**

**Chapter 11**

**Case No. 21-20687 (JJT)**

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**UNITED STATES TRUSTEE’S RESPONSE TO DEBTOR’S MOTION FOR  
ORDER ESTABLISHING DEADLINE OF FEBRUARY 10, 2022 FOR FILING  
PROOFS OF CLAIM AND APPROVING (A) THE FORM OF PROOFS OF  
CLAIM FORMS; (B) PROCEDURES FOR CONFIDENTIALITY OF  
CERTAIN CLAIMS; (C) THE FORM AND MANNER OF NOTICE OF  
PROOF OF CLAIM DEADLINE; AND (D) RELATED RELIEF**

William K. Harrington, the United States Trustee for Region 2 (the “United States Trustee”), through his undersigned counsel, submits the following response to the motion filed by chapter 11 debtor The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation (“Debtor”) titled Motion For Order Establishing Deadline Of February 10, 2022 For Filing Proofs Of Claim And Approving (A) The Form Of Proofs Of Claim Forms; (B) Procedures For Confidentiality Of Certain Claims; (C) The Form And Manner Of Notice Of Proof Of Claim Deadline; And (D) Related Relief (ECF 323) (“POC Motion”).

*Procedural Background*

1. On Thursday, July 15, 2021, the Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. ECF 1.
2. The Debtor operates and manages its affairs as a debtor-in-possession pursuant to Sections 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No trustee or examiner has been appointed in

this case. The Debtor is represented by the law firms of Ice Miller, LLP and Robinson & Cole, LLP. ECF 272 and 321.

3. On July 29, 2021, the United States Trustee appointed an Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (“Committee”). ECF 90. The Committee is represented by the law firm of Zeisler & Zeisler. ECF 233.

4. On October 27, 2021, the Debtor filed the POC Motion. ECF 323. The Court has scheduled the POC Motion for a hearing on November 9, 2021. ECF 326.

5. The POC Motion seeks to set a deadline of February 10, 2022 for the filing of proofs of claim in the Debtor’s case (“POC Deadline”), seeks approval of a form of proof of claim for creditors asserting claims of sexual abuse (“Sexual Abuse POC Form”), seeks approval of a noticing procedure for the POC Deadline, and seeks to create a structure for confidentiality of proofs of claim regarding sexual abuse. ECF 323.

6. As evidenced by the objection filed today, the Committee has a number of concerns regarding the POC motion. The United States Trustee shares those concerns.

*Concerns*

7. The United States Trustee has the following concerns regarding the POC Motion:

a. *POC Deadline and Noticing Procedures:* Appropriate notice of the right and deadline to file a proof of claim is essential. The United States Trustee suggests that setting a proof of claim deadline that is 120 days from the entry of an order on the Debtor’s motion provides a period of time that is more appropriate to this type of chapter 11 case and allows known and currently unknown creditors sufficient time to receive notice and deal with the issues that may arise in connection with filling out a proof of claim form. The United States Trustee

also supports the Committee's positions on the need for earlier publication of the notice of the POC Deadline and the methods of publication.

b. *Sexual Abuse POC Form:* The United States Trustee is concerned by the scope of the questions on the Sexual Abuse POC Form and by the signature section of the Sexual Abuse POC Form. The questions in red font color on the Sexual Abuse POC Form are a combination of invasive questions, unnecessary questions and questions irrelevant to the assertion of a claim. The questions that are in red font color in Parts 2 and 3 of the Sexual Abuse POC Form relate to, *inter alia*, the creditor's marital status, children, education, military service, employment, and religious affiliation. Such information is not necessary, is invasive, and could have a deterrent effect on filing of proofs of claim. The United States Trustee shares the concerns of the Committee as to the scope of the information requested in the Sexual Abuse POC Form.

As to the signature section on the Sexual Abuse POC Form, the United States Trustee notes that it varies significantly from the signature section on Official Form 410 in that it appears to limit and/or restrict signatures and could be read to not permit counsel or other authorized agents to sign the form in lieu of the creditor. Creditors who file a Sexual Abuse POC should have the same rights as other creditors and the Sexual Abuse POC should contain the same signature section as on Official Form 410.

c. *Bar date for Parishes and ad hoc Parish Committee:* The POC Motion mentions the existence of an *ad hoc* Parish Committee. Prior to the filing of the POC Motion, the United States Trustee was not made aware that an *ad hoc* Parish Committee exists or is being formed. The docket does not reflect any such committee and the members of such committee are not known.

In the POC Motion, the Debtor requests to excuse certain (not yet identified) parishes from having to file a proof of claim by the proposed bar date. *See* page 9 of the POC Motion. The United States Trustee is not aware of any compelling reason to treat any parish differently than other creditors and, absent a demonstration of compelling reasons, parishes who seek to have allowed claims in this case should be required to file proofs of claim by the bar date that is set.

Also, in the POC Motion the Debtor seeks to give rights to this *ad hoc* Parish Committee to receive and review Sexual Abuse POC Forms. *See* page 17 of the POC Motion. Such sharing of personal and confidential information may not be necessary or appropriate and the Debtor and/or the parishes should be required to explain and justify why such relief is appropriate, in general and particularly at this juncture.

Dated: New Haven, Connecticut  
November 4, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM K. HARRINGTON  
UNITED STATES TRUSTEE FOR REGION 2

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing document was served on all appearing parties via the Court's electronic case filing system and to the counsel listed below:

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