

**ORLEANS PARISH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**Case Number:
23-161476**

**WARRANT NUMBER:
LSP-2024-019762**

AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANT

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Authority of the ORLEANS PARISH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT, Parish of ORLEANS, State of Louisiana, Criminal Investigator Scott Rodrigue, of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety, who, upon being duly sworn by me, deposes and says:

PROBABLE CAUSE EXIST FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A SEARCH WARRANT AUTHORIZING THE SEARCH OF:

**7887 Walmsley Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125**

Documents, emails, letters, transfer, assignments records, etc. (as defied in the included Definition List), which is in the custody/control of the Archdiocese of New Orleans - 7887 Walmsley Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70125.

WHERE THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED ITEM(S) IS/ARE BELIEVED TO BE LOCATED:

Below is a list of Definitions as it relates to the 'Item to be search and/or requested.' The list of definitions is to better describe ANY and ALL items being requested, which follows the list of definitions:

Definitions

A. A “**Document**” shall mean all physical and electronically stored materials including, but not limited to: all writings and recordings, including the originals and all non-identical copies, whether different from the original by reason of any notation made on such copies or otherwise (including, but not limited to, emails and attachments, electronic evidence (as defined herein), correspondence, memoranda, notes, diaries, minutes, statistics, letters, telegrams, minutes, contracts, agreements, reports, studies, tables, calculations, analyses, summaries, compilations, advertisements, fliers, mailings, brochures, notices, acknowledgements, checks, statements, tags, labels, invoices, brochures, periodicals, telegrams, receipts, returns, summaries, pamphlets, books, interoffice and intraoffice communications, offers, notations of any sort of conversations, working papers, applications, forms, permits, file wrappers, indices, telephone calls, meetings or printouts, teletypes, telefax, invoices, worksheets, policies, claims, charges, complaints, settlements, records, and all drafts, alterations, modifications, changes and amendments of any of the foregoing), graphic or aural representations of any kind (including, but not limited to, photographs, charts, microfiche, microfilm, photocopies, facsimiles, transcripts, graphs, videotape, recordings, motion pictures, plans, drawings, surveys), and electronic, mechanical, magnetic, optical or electric records or representations of any kind (including, but not limited to, computer files and

programs, drives, tapes, cassettes, discs, recordings), including metadata, investigative reports, personnel files, restricted access files, "for Archbishop eyes only" files, "secret or sub secreto" files, Diocesan or Archdiocesan Directories, archive files, assignment histories, transfer letters, transfer requests, sabbaticals, administrative leaves, sick leaves, leaves of absence, termination, seminary or other scholastic records, evaluations, requests for Holy Orders, Accounts of Conscience, pagellas, summaries of files, red flags, training, parish bulletins, parish directories, Judicial Vicar Reports, Priest Files, Office of Communication Files, Director of the Safe Environment Files, Review Board Files, Senate Board Files, Board of Consultors Files, Definitorium Files, paper files, files contained in any and all safes, location of paper files, access to files in any and all locked safes, calendars, psychiatric records, treatment records, Petitions, Applications, Processes, declarations, votum, Canon Law Violations, Canon 489 files, Priests' Personnel Board files, Archdiocesan Statutes and Norms, clergy or review board communications, communications to the Holy See, communications distributed to parishioners and/or law enforcement, insurance policies, and any draft of the foregoing, which is, or has been, at any time, in the control, custody or possession of Defendants.

B. A "**communication**" includes every disclosure, transfer, or exchange of information and every means or manner thereof, whether orally, by document, face-to-face, by telephone, by mail, personally, by computer, via text-message, Instant Messaging, e-mail, or by any other means of delivery whatsoever.

C. To "**identify**" a "**document**" is to attach a copy thereof to your responses or, alternatively, to separately and completely identify each document by (i) type, (ii) date, (iii) author, (iv) recipient(s), (v) general subject matter, and (vi) custodian.

D. To "**identify**" a "**communication**" is to state whether such communication was written or oral, and,

(a) If written, to attach a copy thereof to your responses or, alternatively, to separately and completely identify each document by (i) type, (ii) date, (iii) author, (iv) recipient(s), (v) custodian, and (vi) a detailed description of its contents;

(b) If oral, to (i) state the means of communication (such as by telephone or other communications device or by direct oral means), (ii) state the date thereof, (iii) identify each person witnessing or participating in the communication, (iv) identify all notes or memoranda or other documents relating to the communication, (v) set forth the details of the communication.

E. To "**identify**" a natural "**person**" (i.e., an individual) is to state his or her full name; to provide his or her present or last known residential address; to provide his or her present or last known telephone number; to provide his or her social security number; to identify his or her current or last known employer; and, to provide such other information as would facilitate his or her location for the purpose of obtaining information available to him or her in these proceedings.

F. To "**identify**" a juridical "**person**" (i.e., a firm, partnership, corporation, association, or any other legal entity) is to state its legal name, its domicile, the address and telephone number of its principal place of business, the identity of its agents for service of process in the State of Louisiana and the address and telephone number of its office having supervision or control over the person or matters at issue in these proceedings.

G. To "**identify**" an "**occasion**" or an "**event**" is to (a) state the date of the occasion or event, (b) identify each person having knowledge of the occasion or event, and (c) describe the occasion or event in particular detail.

H. A “**minor**” is considered a child 17-years-old or younger or an individual of reduced mental capacity, therefore unable to make informed decisions or consent to sexual activity.

I. “**Sexual Abuse**” includes, but is not limited to, any of the following acts:

a. Illegal touching of intimate parts, including, but not limited to: an adult touching a minor’s intimate parts; an adult inducing a minor to touch the adult’s intimate parts while holding an actual or perceived position of authority over the minor; and, an adult inducing a minor into sexual contact; or,

b. Attempted or actual sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or any intrusion, however slight, to the genital or anal openings:

- i. Of the minor’s body by any part of the adult’s body, or any object used for this purpose;
- ii. Of the minor’s body by any part of the body of another person, or by any object used by the accused or another person for this purpose, when effected by the use of a position of authority by the inducement of the actor

c. Inappropriate contact and/or contact that infringes upon another’s personal, physical boundaries.

Items to be Searched

(1) ANY and ALL complaints of sexual abuse received by ANY Person of the Archdiocese of New Orleans regarding ANY and ALL Person affiliated with the Archdiocese of New Orleans;

(2) Personnel files for ALL clergy members, including, but not limited to, any employment assignments, reassignments, and/or transfer records for ALL clergy members listed on the ‘Credibly Accused List’ including ANY clergy members accused of sexual abuse of a minor. Additionally, Any documents, records or files pertaining to living clergy members accused of sexual abuse of a minor;

(3) Any documentation or communication, both digital and hard copy, regarding actions or steps taken with or involving the Archdiocese of New Orleans’ receipt of a complaint with allegations against and/or involving one of its members;

(4) Financial records associated with ANY and ALL members of the Archdiocese that received any type of sexual complaints against them, including but not limited to receipts, account records, pension documents, transfer cost, treatment cost, etc.;

(5) ANY and ALL documentation which led to a member of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to be placed on the ‘Credibly Accused List,’ previously made public by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. This includes identifying any event and/or occasion of sexual abuse brought to the attention of ANY member or Affiliate of the Archdiocese of New Orleans;

(6) ANY and ALL documentation provided to a person or organization regarding knowledge of accusations of sexual abuse and or sexual misconduct;

(7) ANY and ALL communications between the Archbishop of New Orleans and ANY department within the Vatican pertaining to child sexual abuse as it relates to complaints or filings of sexual abuse made regarding the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Additionally, ANY communications between the

Archbishop of New Orleans and other Archbishop or Cardinal pertaining to child sexual abuse as it relates to accused New Orleans clergy members;

(8) List of ANY and ALL persons employed or formerly employed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans who have or had access to complaints, filings or information regarding child sexual abuse as it relates to members/clergy members of the Archdiocese of New Orleans;

(9) Documents listing current contact information of all living clergy members accused of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a minor;

(10) In closing, produce ALL documents related to the sexual abuse of a minor by clergy for the Archdiocese of New Orleans not otherwise specifically listed or requested above. In short, produce ANY and ALL documents that pertain in any way to the sexual abuse of a minor by clergy members employed or otherwise associated with the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

AND ARE BELIEVED TO CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF:

*1 Count of 14:46.3--Trafficking of Children for sexual purposes-- (Felony)

PROBABLE CAUSE IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

In February 2022, I, Investigator Scott Rodrigue, assigned to the Special Victims Unit (SVU) of the Louisiana State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Violent Crimes Against Children (VCAC) Task Force, began assisting the FBI on a federal investigation after multiple allegations against members of the Archdioceses of New Orleans were made.

During the course of the investigation, law enforcement personnel conducted a large number of interviews (which are still being conducted) of victims alleging the widespread sexual abuse of minors at the hands of priests and clergymen dating back decades.

In June of 2022, investigators conducted an interview of now known-victim. The Known-Victim, who was a minor at the time of the alleged crime, detailed being anally raped at an Archdiocese facility by Ex-Priest Father Lawrence Hecker, who served in 13 different congregations during his career. As a result of that interview, a separate LSP investigation was eventually opened under LSP case # 22-148883.

On September 7, 2023, Lawrence Hecker was indicted by an Orleans Parish Grand Jury for the following charges:

One (1) count of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:42; Relative to Aggravated Rape.

One (1) count of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:44; Relative to Aggravated Kidnapping.

One (1) count of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:89.1; Relative to Aggravated Crimes Against Nature.

One (1) count of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:67; Relative to Theft

In addition, and based on victim interviews and documents previously sealed by a federal bankruptcy judge, it was additionally alleged that high ranking members of the Archdiocese of New Orleans not only knew about claims of widespread sexual abuse of minors dating back decades, but that the claims were ignored, and in many cases, covered up and not reported to law enforcement. This was made clear during the Hecker investigation. The known-victim detailed reporting his rape to the Head of the Archdiocese Facility shortly after it occurred, but explained no legal action was taken. It was learned that particular

clergy member was later also sent to a psychiatric facility due to claims of sexual abuse and subsequently later listed on the 'Credibly Accused List' of two separate Archdiocese, one being Orleans. During a law enforcement interview with that known clergy member, he confessed to sexually abusing a minor which occurred in the 1970's, although through out the years he was the target of other sexual abuse accusations.

Subsequently, additional allegations were made against other high-ranking members of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The allegations continued to include claims that the Archdiocese was aware of, disregarded, and/or covered up widespread claims of sexual abuse of minors dating back years. The allegations indicated that many claims reported to the Archdiocese were not reported to law enforcement and, in some cases, monetary payments were made to victims and/or their families by the Archdiocese to dismiss the allegations. Others claims alleged, that accused priests and clergyman were moved to other congregations within the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and, in some cases, reassigned to other Archdiocese to hide them from their accusers.

During the Hecker investigation, a search warrant was issued to the Archdiocese of New Orleans for all documents related to Lawrence Hecker. The search warrant was signed by the Honorable Orleans Parish Commissioner Jay Daniels. As a result, investigators obtained documentation previously not released to law enforcement. A review of some of the documents revealed that Hecker, along with numerous other clergy members, were publicly listed on a 'Credibly Accused List' by the Archdiocese of New Orleans based on allegations of sexual misconduct. It was further learned that Hecker was sent to a psychiatric facility in Pennsylvania and diagnosed as a "*Pedophile*" by a medical professional. Even with the medical diagnoses, Hecker was released and reassigned to another parish after his evaluation, with the blessing of the Archbishop, who was aware of his medical diagnoses. Hecker was not the only member of the archdiocese sent to receive psychiatric testing based on allegations of child sexual abuse.

Some of the documents obtained back the claim that previous Archbishops, the highest-ranking official in the Archdiocese, not only knew of the sexual abuse and failed to report all the claims to law enforcement, but spent Archdiocese funding to support the accused.

For example, one 48-page document obtained during the course of the investigation, detailed a certain named Archbishop, "*was aware of rampant sexual abuse though-out the Archdiocese.*" This is only one example of some of the accusations detailed in victim statements and documentation.

Other examples include multiple victims providing statements to be transported to other parishes and outside of Louisiana where they were sexually abused. Additionally, it was reported that in some instances, 'gifts' were given to abuse victims by the accused with instructions to pass on or give the 'gift' to certain priest at the next school or church. It was said that the 'gift' was a form of signaling to another priest that the person was a target for sexual abuse. Another example of the continued misuse and illegal activity occurring at Archdiocese facilities is that multiple victims reported being brought to the New Orleans Seminary where they were told to 'skinny dip' or swim naked in the pool and would be sexually assaulted or abused. This was discovered to be a common occurrence and it was reported that other members of the Archdiocese were present at the pool at the time. Although not all, many of the alleged sexual abuse cases or incidents occurred on Archdiocese property.

Based on these findings, as well as the allegations of previous widespread child sexual abuse, it was determined that further investigation into the Archdiocese of New Orleans was necessary.

At this time, based on the information provided, it is respectfully requested that a search warrant be issued to the Archdiocese of New Orleans for ANY and ALL documentation, both digital and hard paper regarding complaints, to include, but not limited to:

- (1) ANY and ALL complaints of sexual abuse received by ANY Person of the Archdiocese of New Orleans regarding ANY and ALL Person affiliated with the Archdiocese of New Orleans;
- (2) Personnel files for ALL clergy members, including, but not limited to, any employment assignments, reassignments, and/or transfer records for ALL clergy members listed on the 'Credibly Accused List' including ANY clergy members accused of sexual abuse of a minor. Additionally, Any documents, records or files pertaining to living clergy members accused of sexual abuse of a minor;
- (3) Any documentation or communication, both digital and hard copy, regarding actions or steps taken with or involving the Archdiocese of New Orleans' receipt of a complaint with allegations against and/or involving one of its members;
- (4) Financial records associated with ANY and ALL members of the Archdiocese that received any type of sexual complaints against them, including but not limited to receipts, account records, pension documents, transfer cost, treatment cost, etc;
- (5) ANY and ALL documentation which led to a member of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to be placed on the 'Credibly Accused List,' previously made public by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. This includes identifying any event and/or occasion of sexual abuse brought to the attention of ANY member or Affiliate of the Archdiocese of New Orleans;
- (6) ANY and ALL documentation provided to a person or organization regarding knowledge of accusations of sexual abuse and or sexual misconduct;
- (7) ANY and ALL communications between the Archbishop of New Orleans and ANY department within the Vatican pertaining to child sexual abuse as it relates to complaints or filings of sexual abuse made regarding the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Additionally, ANY communications between the Archbishop of New Orleans and other Archbishop or Cardinal pertaining to child sexual abuse as its relates to accused New Orleans clergy members;
- (8) List of ANY and ALL persons employed or formerly employed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans who have or had access to complaints, filings or information regarding child sexual abuse as it relates to members/clergy members of the Archdiocese of New Orleans;
- (9) Documents listing current contact information of all living clergy members accused of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct of a minor;
- (10) In closing, produce ALL documents related to the sexual abuse of a minor by clergy for the Archdiocese of New Orleans not otherwise specifically listed or requested above. In short, produce ANY and ALL documents that pertain in any way to the sexual abuse of a minor by clergy members employed or otherwise associated with the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

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Scott Rodrigue

Criminal Investigator Scott Rodrigue
Louisiana Department of Public Safety

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the 22 day of Apr, 2024 at 03:10 PM in Orleans Parish, Louisiana.

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Juana Lombard

Judge Juana Matine Lombard
ORLEANS PARISH CRIMINAL DISTRICT
COURT
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

**ORLEANS PARISH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**CASE NUMBER:
23-161476**

**WARRANT NUMBER:
LSP-2024-019762**

SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANT

AFFIDAVIT HAVING BEEN MADE BEFORE ME BY Criminal Investigator Scott Rodrigue of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety, that he has a good reason to believe that on or in:

**7887 Walmsley Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125**

Further described as:

Documents, emails, letters, transfer, assignments records, etc. (as defied in the included Definition List), which is in the custody/control of the Archdiocese of New Orleans - 7887 Walmsley Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70125.

there is now being concealed certain property, **namely:**

Below is a list of Definitions as it relates to the 'Item to be search and/or requested.' The list of definitions is to better describe ANY and ALL items being requested, which follows the list of definitions:

Definitions

A. A “**Document**” shall mean all physical and electronically stored materials including, but not limited to: all writings and recordings, including the originals and all non-identical copies, whether different from the original by reason of any notation made on such copies or otherwise (including, but not limited to, emails and attachments, electronic evidence (as defined herein), correspondence, memoranda, notes, diaries, minutes, statistics, letters, telegrams, minutes, contracts, agreements, reports, studies, tables, calculations, analyses, summaries, compilations, advertisements, fliers, mailings, brochures, notices, acknowledgements, checks, statements, tags, labels, invoices, brochures, periodicals, telegrams, receipts, returns, summaries, pamphlets, books, interoffice and intraoffice communications, offers, notations of any sort of conversations, working papers, applications, forms, permits, file wrappers, indices, telephone calls, meetings or printouts, teletypes, telefax, invoices, worksheets, policies, claims, charges, complaints, settlements, records, and all drafts, alterations, modifications, changes and amendments of any of the foregoing), graphic or aural representations of any kind (including, but not limited to, photographs, charts, microfiche, microfilm, photocopies, facsimiles, transcripts, graphs, videotape, recordings, motion pictures, plans, drawings, surveys), and electronic, mechanical, magnetic, optical or electric records or representations of any kind (including, but not limited to, computer files and programs, drives, tapes, cassettes, discs, recordings), including metadata, investigative reports, personnel files, restricted access files, “for Archbishop eyes only” files, “secret or sub secreto” files, Diocesan or Archdiocesan Directories, archive files, assignment histories, transfer letters, transfer requests, sabbaticals, administrative leaves, sick leaves, leaves of absence, termination, seminary or other scholastic

records, evaluations, requests for Holy Orders, Accounts of Conscience, pagellas, summaries of files, red flags, training, parish bulletins, parish directories, Judicial Vicar Reports, Priest Files, Office of Communication Files, Director of the Safe Environment Files, Review Board Files, Senate Board Files, Board of Consultors Files, Definitorium Files, paper files, files contained in any and all safes, location of paper files, access to files in any and all locked safes, calendars, psychiatric records, treatment records, Petitions, Applications, Processes, declarations, votum, Canon Law Violations, Canon 489 files, Priests' Personnel Board files, Archdiocesan Statutes and Norms, clergy or review board communications, communications to the Holy See, communications distributed to parishioners and/or law enforcement, insurance policies, and any draft of the foregoing, which is, or has been, at any time, in the control, custody or possession of Defendants.

B. A "**communication**" includes every disclosure, transfer, or exchange of information and every means or manner thereof, whether orally, by document, face-to-face, by telephone, by mail, personally, by computer, via text-message, Instant Messaging, e-mail, or by any other means of delivery whatsoever.

C. To "**identify**" a "**document**" is to attach a copy thereof to your responses or, alternatively, to separately and completely identify each document by (i) type, (ii) date, (iii) author, (iv) recipient(s), (v) general subject matter, and (vi) custodian.

D. To "**identify**" a "**communication**" is to state whether such communication was written or oral, and,

(a) If written, to attach a copy thereof to your responses or, alternatively, to separately and completely identify each document by (i) type, (ii) date, (iii) author, (iv) recipient(s), (v) custodian, and (vi) a detailed description of its contents;

(b) If oral, to (i) state the means of communication (such as by telephone or other communications device or by direct oral means), (ii) state the date thereof, (iii) identify each person witnessing or participating in the communication, (iv) identify all notes or memoranda or other documents relating to the communication, (v) set forth the details of the communication.

E. To "**identify**" a natural "**person**" (i.e., an individual) is to state his or her full name; to provide his or her present or last known residential address; to provide his or her present or last known telephone number; to provide his or her social security number; to identify his or her current or last known employer; and, to provide such other information as would facilitate his or her location for the purpose of obtaining information available to him or her in these proceedings.

F. To "**identify**" a juridical "**person**" (i.e., a firm, partnership, corporation, association, or any other legal entity) is to state its legal name, its domicile, the address and telephone number of its principal place of business, the identity of its agents for service of process in the State of Louisiana and the address and telephone number of its office having supervision or control over the person or matters at issue in these proceedings.

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H. A "**minor**" is considered a child 17-years-old or younger or an individual of reduced mental capacity, therefore unable to make informed decisions or consent to sexual activity.

I. “**Sexual Abuse**” includes, but is not limited to, any of the following acts:

a. Illegal touching of intimate parts, including, but not limited to: an adult touching a minor’s intimate parts; an adult inducing a minor to touch the adult’s intimate parts while holding an actual or perceived position of authority over the minor; and, an adult inducing a minor into sexual contact; or,

b. Attempted or actual sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or any intrusion, however slight, to the genital or anal openings:

- i. Of the minor’s body by any part of the adult’s body, or any object used for this purpose;
- ii. Of the minor’s body by any part of the body of another person, or by any object used by the accused or another person for this purpose, when effected by the use of a position of authority by the inducement of the actor

c. Inappropriate contact and/or contact that infringes upon another’s personal, physical boundaries.

Items to be Searched

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is/are located, which property constitutes evidence of the violation of:

*1 Count of 14:46.3--Trafficking of Children for sexual purposes-- (Felony)

of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, and the affidavit submitted in support of this search warrant shows the necessary probable cause for its issuance. The purpose and reason for the search is to find and seize the item(s) listed above.

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to search forthwith the aforesaid for the property specified serving this Search and Seizure Warrant and making the search during the day time or night time, Sundays or holidays, and if the thing(s) specified are found there, to seize it and hold them in safe custody pending further orders of the court. This shall be your warrant, whereof you are to make due to return according to law.

WITNESS my official signature, 22 day of Apr, 2024 at 03:10 PM in ORLEANS Parish, Louisiana.

Juana Matine Lombard
ORLEANS PARISH CRIMINAL DISTRICT
COURT
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA