

# Redress Options for Survivors of Abuse.



**POLICE INVESTIGATION**

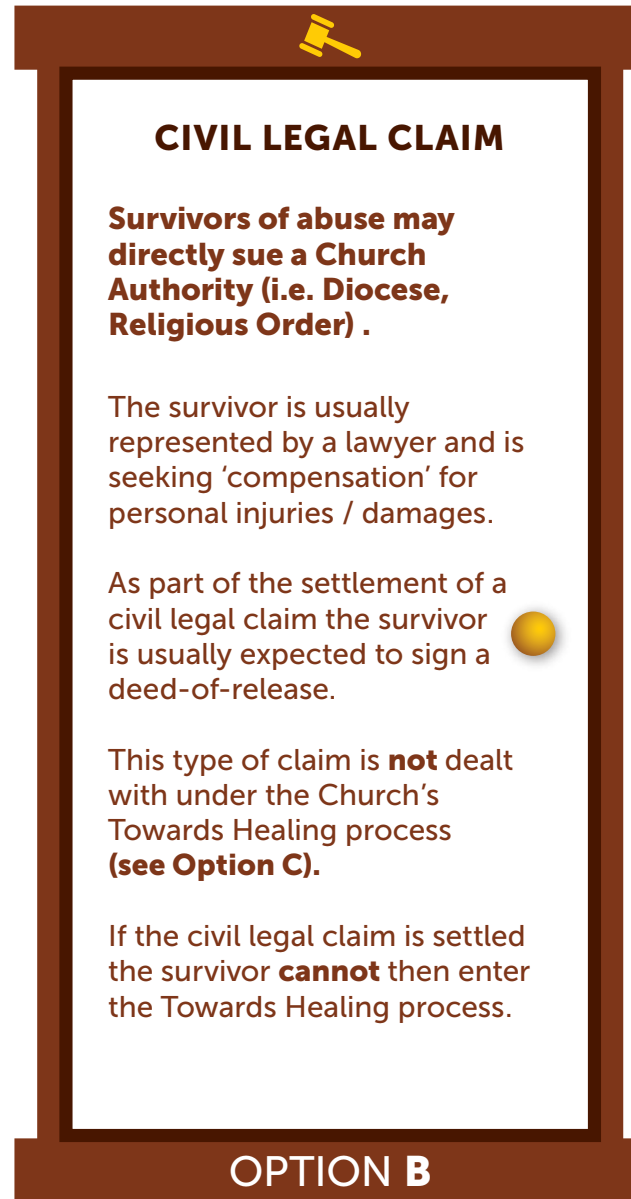
**The Catholic Church prefers that all allegations of abuse be reported to the police for investigation.**

The Professional Standards Office can assist survivors make a police report.

The Church's Towards Healing process (**see Option C**) **cannot** be invoked whilst a police investigation/criminal justice process is ongoing.

The Towards Healing process may be invoked once the police investigation/criminal justice process is finished.

**OPTION A**



**CIVIL LEGAL CLAIM**

**Survivors of abuse may directly sue a Church Authority (i.e. Diocese, Religious Order) .**

The survivor is usually represented by a lawyer and is seeking 'compensation' for personal injuries / damages.

As part of the settlement of a civil legal claim the survivor is usually expected to sign a deed-of-release.

This type of claim is **not** dealt with under the Church's Towards Healing process (**see Option C**).

If the civil legal claim is settled the survivor **cannot** then enter the Towards Healing process.

**OPTION B**



**TOWARDS HEALING**

**The Church's Towards Healing process sets out how complaints of abuse against Church personnel will be handled.**

If a survivor does not wish to report the abuse to the police (**Option A**) or make a civil legal claim (**Option B**), they may enter the Towards Healing process.

The process aims to achieve **pastoral level outcomes** that assist the survivor improve their well-being and some healing. This **may** include some financial assistance.

The Towards Healing process is **not a compensation scheme**.

The Towards Healing process is **not a police investigation** and cannot impose the same penalties as a court.

The Towards Healing process is **not a discipline process**.

As part of a settlement under Towards Healing the survivor is usually expected to sign a deed-of-release.

**OPTION C**