

## Summary of Father Lawrence Lovell Investigation

**MCAO DR #:** 03-702200

**Attorneys:**

Redacted

**Case Detective:**

Redacted

**Suspect:**

**Lawrence Joseph Lovell**

**DOB:** 3-8-1948

**Address:** 1801 Blueberry Dr.

Rio Rancho, New Mexico

Employed by the University of New Mexico in the Mental Health Center as a forensic case manager. Served as Staff Council President in 2000.

Former Claretian Order Priest. Assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Prescott from 1976 to 1979.

Prior conviction in 1986 for Lewd Acts with a Child under the age of 14. Los Angeles Superior Court. Received 36 months probation to be completed at Claretian Order Headquarters in Chicago, Ill.

Arrested in May 2003 in Rio Rancho, New Mexico on charges stemming from 1980 to 1982 in San Gabriel California. Four victims. Charged with (10) counts of Lewd Acts on a Child under the age of 14, (1) count of Lewd Acts on a Child under the age of 15.

In Arizona he has been charged with four felony sexually related charges.

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Lawrence Joseph Lovell was at one time a priest in the Claretian Order and between 1976 and 1979 was assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Prescott, Arizona. This Parish falls under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Phoenix.

During the course of the ongoing investigation into the Diocese of Phoenix, the Maricopa County Attorney's Office received an e-mail from Yavapai County Attorney Shelia Polk. This e-mail stated that Shelia Polk had been contacted by a local individual who stated that he was molested by Father Larry Lovell in Prescott and also on a trip to Phoenix. The e-mail also related that the individual was 13 years old when he was molested. He was reluctant to disclose publicly what had happened to him.

In April of 2003 Detective [Redacted] met County Attorney Polk and was told that the victim had recently contacted her and he was now ready to meet and discuss his situation. County Attorney Polk conveyed jurisdiction of this matter to the Maricopa County Attorney. This victim was contacted and interviewed regarding Father Larry Lovell. During this interview [Redacted] related the following information.

[Redacted] related that his family attended Sacred Heart Church in Prescott and that he was an altar boy. [Redacted] also went to Sacred Heart grade school. Father Lovell worked with the youth at the church and also served as the P.E. teacher at the school. [Redacted] said that his parents were going through rough times. [Redacted] stated that Father Lovell would listen to him and seemed to care about his family. [Redacted] talked about an incident that happened in early 1978 in which he pulled his groin muscle. [Redacted] told Father Lovell about this injury and Father Lovell took [Redacted] into the bathroom and closed the door. Father Lovell then had [Redacted] pull his shorts and athletic supporter down. Father Lovell squatted down in front of [Redacted] and started to examine him and touched [Redacted]'s genitals. [Redacted] said that he thought it was strange that Father Lovell would be doing this, but Father Lovell continued to touch and poke [Redacted]'s genitals. [Redacted] stated that Father Lovell would touch his penis and move it, then touch his scrotum. [Redacted] related that Father Lovell never suggested that he see a doctor or a nurse about this injury.

██████████ said that a priest in the parish had been killed in a car accident and Father Lovell came up with the idea of building a little memorial on the church grounds. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class raised money for this project and built a planter as a memorial. There was a ceremony one night in August of 1978 to dedicate this memorial. After the ceremony Father Lovell asked ██████████'s parents if ██████████ could spend the night in the rectory with him. ██████████'s parents gave permission for this and ██████████ thought it was kind of a cool idea. That night Father Lovell gave ██████████ some champagne and ██████████ said that he felt drunk. Father Lovell took ██████████ into the bedroom. ██████████ stated he did not remember how it all happened, but he ended up completely naked and Father Lovell was massaging him. ██████████ was lying on his stomach and as Father Lovell massaged him, he would spread ██████████'s legs apart and reach underneath and between ██████████'s legs. Father Lovell was fondling ██████████'s penis and also rubbing ██████████'s butt. ██████████ said that Father Lovell was touching him everywhere he could.

██████████ talked about a time when he was in Father Lovell's room at the rectory. ██████████ was sitting in a chair. Father Lovell received a phone call and came over and sat on ██████████'s lap. Father Lovell then reached underneath and started touching ██████████ through his clothes. Father Lovell was squeezing and running his thumb and forefinger along ██████████'s penis. Father Lovell continued to do this until ██████████ ejaculated. ██████████ said that Father Lovell told him it's okay to have one, it just means you're enjoying this. This incident occurred between October and Christmas in 1978.

██████████ also talked about an incident at the church when he was helping set up Christmas decorations. ██████████ said that Father Lovell would stand next to him. Father Lovell would then lean over and say something like, "you need to go get that string of lights and put it over there." While doing this, Father Lovell would brush his hand across ██████████'s clothed penis. ██████████ related that Father Lovell would do this while trying to get ██████████'s attention. This happened in December of 1978.

There was also an incident that ██████████ said happened when he went to a cabin in Groom Creek with Father Lovell. ██████████ believed this cabin belonged to Father Lovell's brother. ██████████ stated that there was a waterbed in the cabin and at that time a waterbed was a big deal. ██████████ went on to say that he was on the waterbed and Father Lovell was

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massaging him. Father Lovell would spread [redacted]'s legs and touch and  
massage his penis. [redacted] said Father Lovell would also run his hand  
between his butt cheeks and touch him in that area, but did not touch  
his anus this time. This took place between May and September of 1979.

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*All individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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