

Pampanga archdiocese relieves priest accused of abuse

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A Catholic priest has been accused of sexual abuse and was relieved of his duties, a church leader said Sunday.

The alleged victim, a 17-year-old girl, was not identified. She accused Fr. Daniel Baul of abuse that happened at a church-based center for women and children in Pampanga.

A formal complaint was made by the alleged victim to the authorities which resulted in the issuance of a warrant of arrest.

The Archdiocese of San Fernando said it is cooperating with officials investigating the case, but provided no other information.

Archbishop Florencio Lavarias said they would exert all efforts “so that truth and justice may be served for both parties”.

“As a matter of protocol, the accused, though innocent until proven guilty, has been relieved from his assignment,” Lavarias said.

He also said that “pastoral care” is being extended to the alleged victim, while the archdiocese is conducting its own investigation.