

Jerome Frandle – prison sentence

A court case in Michigan USA illustrates the importance of complying with legal requirements and notifying the authorities of any instances of suspected abuse. The Michigan Child Protection Law was amended in 2002, effective 2003, to require mandatory reporting by clergy but this was not widely known. In 2011, the overseer for the area, Jerome Frandle, was arrested and charged that he “did knowingly fail to report suspected child abuse or neglect.”

Jerome’s attorney filed a “motion to dismiss.” During that hearing the Court found that “Mr Frandle is a member of the clergy as defined by the statute.” The State of Michigan initially dropped the substantive case but during a further hearing on May 2013 Mr Frandle pleaded no contest to a charge of failing to report abuse and was sentenced to 4 days jail, a fine of \$733 and 100 hours of community service. Court documents are available [here](#) and the final newspaper report [here](#).

