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November 28, 2018

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SCANDAL PLAGUED HANNA BOYS CENTER HIT WITH NEW ALLEGATIONS OF COVERING UP CHILD SEX ABUSE

Irvine, California – Attorneys representing two brothers, allegedly abused as children at the Hanna Boys Center, have filed a motion in Sonoma County Superior Court asking for punitive damages against the school. [Click here for motion.](#)

Attorney and victim's advocate Vince Finaldi said, "The toxic environment at the Hanna Boys Center began at the top with the Catholic Diocese of Santa Rosa and the Center's director Father John Crews. Child molestation was allowed to flourish, reports of abuse were dismissed, and victims were discouraged from coming forward. At risk children who were sent to this facility to be helped, had their lives destroyed."

The Hanna Boys Center was founded in 1947 as a residential treatment facility for troubled youth. The school is allegedly operated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Santa Rosa.

Plaintiffs John MR Doe and John FJ Doe were allegedly molested at the Hanna Boys Center by counselor Kevin. The motion alleges that the Hanna Boys Center and its employees had knowledge that Thorpe was sexually abusing children on the Hanna Boys Center campus and his home, ignored evidence and actively covered up the abuse.

Brothers MR and FJ Doe attended the Hanna Boys Center as a result of an unstable home life and issues with their families.

According to the motion, the brothers began attending the center in September of 2006 when MR was 13 years old and FJ was 15 years old. They soon came in to contact with Kevin Thorpe who was their caseworker and counselor at the center. It is alleged that Thorpe quickly began sexual conversations with each of the boys and took them to his home where he would play pornography for them and encourage them to masturbate while he watched. Thorpe is also alleged to engaged in sexual activity with each of the brothers on the Hanna Boys Center campus.

The motion alleges that, Joseph Filice, another employee of the Hanna Boys Center, walked into Thorpe's office while Thorpe was sexually abusing MR Doe. The motion alleges that Joseph Filice exclaimed words to the effect of "Oh my God," and then walked out of the room. No mandated report of the abuse is known to have been made by Filice as is required by California law.

Kevin Thorpe, who worked at the Hanna Boys Center for 14 years is currently serving a 21- year prison sentence for molesting four boys, including MR Doe and FJ Doe.

The motion also alleges that Hanna Boys Center Executive Director Father John Crews, a priest with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Santa Rosa, had been accused of sexually abusing a young boy in the 1970s. Another former student of Hanna Boys Center has come forward to report that he was sexually abused as a minor by Father Crews in 1989 and 1990 when he was 13 to 14 years old. The motion alleges that Father Crews would often take children over to his home at times that would have been inappropriate. It is alleged that Father Crews paid a young boy to come to his home at night to “chop wood” on the property.

Last year, the California Department of Social Services initiated legal action seeking to revoke the Hanna Boys Center license to operate as a residential facility based on allegations of sexual abuse and safety concerns.

[Manly, Stewart & Finaldi](#) is California’s leading law firm representing child victims of sexual abuse. The firm has represented more than 150 victims of clergy sexual abuse in California and hundreds of others throughout the United States. The firm also represented plaintiffs in the \$140,000,000 settlement against LAUSD in the Miramonte case, the largest sex abuse settlement against a School District in the US. The firm currently represents more than 180 alleged victims of former Michigan State University and U.S. Women’s Gymnastics Olympic Team doctor Larry Nassar. Michigan State University has settled this case for \$500,000,000, the largest settlement of any personal injury case against a University. In 2018 the firm settled cases against the Torrance Unified School District for \$31 million on behalf of alleged victims of former wrestling coach and convicted child molester Thomas Snider, against Los Angeles Unified School district for \$8 million in cases involving former football coach and convicted child molester Jamie Jimenez and for \$14 million in cases involving former Los Angeles Unified District employee Ronnie Lee Roman.