

A Proposal for the Formation of Response Teams in the Elephants in the Living Room (EIL)

The Elephants shall recruit a pool of Auditors with various kinds of expertise among its priests and lay members. This pool will be the source for “Response Teams” of three or more members, selected to *listen* to persons and/or groups who feel they have been treated unjustly by agents or structures of the archdiocese of Detroit, *determine the relevant facts and possible recommendations* and *submit a written report to the Ordinary*. *Such report will be made public only with the consent of the grieved party and the Response Team.*

Further elaboration:

The Response Team will be requested by either: 1) the grieved person(s) through a member of the EIL; or 2) the EIL Board of Directors. (An official request form may be designed for this purpose.)

A time and place will be agreed upon by the grieved person(s) and the Response Team to meet and listen to the grieved party and determine the necessary facts of each case, which will be recorded by a member of the Response Team.

It will be understood by all concerned that the Response Team has itself no power to change a situation or render binding decisions. Its task is to ascertain the relevant facts, make possible recommendations, and submit a written report to the Ordinary in a confidential manner. The report will be made public only with the consent of both the grieved party and the Response Team. The Response Team will not be party to any legal/court proceedings. It is to be independent of the archdiocesan offices and chancery.

How to create the Response Teams:

1. The EIL Board of Directors (its appointee) designs and circulates a questionnaire inviting EIL members to be in a “pool” of potential Response Team participants.

Information requested in the questionnaire:

- A) name
- B) address (mail, fax, e-mail)
- C) phone (home, work, cell)
- D) parish
- E) areas of expertise: e.g., civil law, canon law, professional skills and experience, involvement in parish and other groups, etc.
- F) educational background
- G) hours available to serve on the Response Team
- H) signed consent to be on a Team, provided there is no conflict of interest

This information goes to:

2. a Response Team Board, appointed by the EIL Board of Directors to:
 - direct operations of the Response Teams
 - draw up guidelines for the Response Teams
 - design a Request Form for the service of a Response Team
 - select ad hoc Teams as occasions arise from the pool
 - give directions to the ad hoc Response Team and assist it.

3. Guidelines for Response Teams:
 - auditors only (not decision makers)
 - fairness
 - draw up report containing complaint, facts involved, recommend possible response(s) by the Ordinary
 - kept confidential until/unless there is an agreement to be made public from both the Response Team and the grieved party.
4. EIL Board of Directors reports to the membership without revealing confidences until/unless there is agreement from the Response Team and aggrieved party.

Rev. Ed Scheuerman
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