

THE APOSTOLIC SOCIETY REPORTING CENTRE REGULATIONS

Versie 27 November 2020

Foreword

The board of the Apostolic Society released a statement on 11 October 2020. In this statement, sincere apologies have been offered on behalf of the Apostolic Society to anyone who, as a member or as a former member, has experienced denial, constraint and emotional pain because of the organisational culture that prevailed, in particular, before the turn of the century and/or resulting actions of pastoral carers within the Apostolic Society.

In a note to this statement, the board of the Apostolic Society indicated that, because every person is unique and requires a personal approach, an independent, external reporting centre will be opened, where members and former members can receive help to process their Apostolic past. The board of the Apostolic Society wants to continue to offer the opportunity to enter into (further) discussion and/or to appeal to professional support or another form of help.

These regulations are an elaboration of the statement of the board. The regulations are intended for individual members and former members of the Apostolic Society and focus on their spiritual well-being. The regulations aim to seek connection, understanding and reconciliation. The regulations intend to be informal and accessible.

The regulations provide for a reporting centre where individual members and former members can submit an application. The regulations contain a procedure that can be carried out step by step, but does not need to be followed in its entirety, depending on individual wishes. After an application is submitted, a reporting centre employee and the member or former member will, at an early stage, discuss whether there is a need for help, guidance and/or support to help process the Apostolic past. First, this can be done by sharing or expressing (personal) insights in order to be able to relate to the past again. Accessible support can also be offered directly, for example, by referring to a care provider or, if there is a need to share the personal story/experiences, by offering a meeting with the internal or external confidential advisor. There are two situations in which the regulations provide for the possibility for members and former members to explain their application orally before an advisory committee. This is first of all the case if the board needs to acknowledge and/or apologise for the normative and thus uniform culture at the time and second, when there is a need for a different type of compensation (such as material or financial). At the request of the applicant, the advisory committee can subsequently issue advice to the board. The advice of the advisory committee is substantial but not binding on the board. The board ultimately decides on the application.

Definition of terms:

Article 1

In these regulations, the terms below have the following meanings:

Applicant: submits a	the member or former member of the Apostolic Society who written or digital request for help, counselling and/or support in processing mental suffering and possibly submits a request for (financial) compensation based on these regulations.
Apostolic Society:	the Apostolic Society, established in Baarn.
Board:	the board of the Apostolic Society.
Advisory Committee:	the Advisory Committee for the Apostolic Reporting Centre Regulations, established and maintained by the board of the Apostolic Society.
Member:	a member registered with the Apostolic Society.
Former member:	a member who was registered with the Apostolic Society in the past.
Mental suffering:	the personal experience of pain as a result of denial, constraint and emotional pain, other than psychological discomfort and/or psychological unwell-being, because of the organisational culture that prevailed, in particular, before the turn of the century and/or resulting actions of pastoral carers within the Apostolic Society.
Internal	the independent, internal confidential advisor of the Apostolic Society, appointed by the board. confidential advisor
External	the independent, external confidential advisor of the Apostolic Society, appointed by the board. confidential advisor
Reporting centre:	the digital counter and PO box address where members and former members can submit an application.
Compensation:	help, assistance and/or (financial) support.
Reporting centre employee:	the person charged with managing the reporting centre.
Secretary:	the secretary of the Advisory Committee.
Statement:	the written statement issued by the board on 11 October 2020.

The Reporting centre

Article 2

The Reporting centre comprises a digital counter that is accessible via a website positioned outside the Apostolic Society and a PO box address.

Article 3

The Reporting centre is managed by a reporting centre employee. The reporting centre employee is appointed by the board and is an external person who is independent of the Apostolic Society and who has knowledge and experience in answering questions and giving advice in the field of these regulations. In the event of illness, absence or any other inability to act, the reporting centre employee will be replaced or assisted by the secretary.

Article 4

Individual members and former members can submit applications in relation to the implementation of these regulations to the Reporting centre digitally or by letter until 1 January 2022 at the latest.

Article 5

The initial application contains at least the following information:

- Name and address details;
- E-mail address;
- Telephone number;
- A concise description of the experiences on the basis of which denial, constraint and/or emotional pain was or is being experienced;
- The community to which the applicant belongs or belonged;
- The pastor(s) who is (are) or was (were) employed there;
- During which period the applicant is or was a member of the Apostolic Society.

Article 6

By submitting the application, the applicant indicates that he agrees with the content of these regulations.

Article 7

The reporting centre employee manages incoming applications and, upon receipt, contacts the applicant within 3 weeks.

Article 8

When answering questions and giving advice, the reporting centre employee can remind an applicant of or refer him to, among others:

- the internal confidential advisor;
- the external confidential advisor;
- the general practitioner or another care or assistance provider;
- the possibility to participate in or form a peer support group;

- to investigate the possibility of having a conversation with a specific (former) pastoral carer of the Apostolic Society, possibly under the guidance of the internal confidential advisor, the external confidential advisor, a mediator or a recovery coach.

Article 9

In the event of a (suspected) criminal offence, the reporting centre employee can remind the applicant of or refer him to:

- the police, to report the crime;
- Victim Support Netherlands [SHN], who can also offer help reporting the crime to the police, contact *Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling* (who organise victim offender mediation) and contact a peer support group;
- the Sexual Abuse in Pastoral Relationships reporting centre, where external confidential advisors can also provide assistance.

Article 10

The reporting centre employee can forward the application to the Advisory Committee as referred to in these regulations, with the applicant's written consent, even if the provisions of Article 8 or 9 have been applied.

Procedure at the advisory committee

Article 11

The advisory committee consists of an odd number of external and independent members, to be determined by the board, namely a chairman, an expert in the field of behavioural sciences, such as a BIG-registered psychologist or psychiatrist, as an ordinary member and a mediator or recovery coach as an ordinary member.

All members are appointed by the board. To guarantee the independence of the members, they cannot be members or former members of the Apostolic Society, nor persons who have (had) an employment relationship or contractual partnership with the Apostolic Society. Furthermore, the members of the advisory committee who participate in the assessment of the application do not hold any positions or ancillary positions that make it difficult or otherwise impede the provision of independent advice.

The board can also appoint one or more deputy members.

The chairman of the advisory committee has the capacity of master of law. The advisory committee is assisted by a secretary, who has the capacity of master of law.

The secretariat of the committee is managed by the secretary.

The task of the advisory committee is to advise the board on the compensation applications received.

Article 12

If during the processing of the application by the reporting centre, with due observance of Article 10, it appears the applicant (also) wishes to be eligible for recognition/apologies by the board and/or for a different kind of compensation than described in Articles 8 and 9 in these regulations, the reporting centre employee forwards the application to the secretary.

Article 13

For the purpose of the advisory committee processing the application, the secretary may ask the applicant for additional details, evidence and/or further information, such as:

- IBAN;
- a description of the facts and/or circumstances on the basis of which a different type of compensation is requested;
- a description of the (form of) compensation that is requested;
- if possible, a written statement, with supporting documents, of any costs of psychological/psychiatric or other forms of assistance.

Article 14

The applicant may attach documents to the application. The application is dated and signed by the applicant himself.

Article 15

Within 10 days of the advisory committee receiving the application, the secretary will confirm this to the applicant in writing.

Article 16

If the application does not meet the requirements referred to in Articles 5 and 13, the secretary will give the applicant the opportunity to complete the application within four weeks.

Article 17

The secretary may also officially request the applicant in writing to submit further information or to provide further explanations of the application within a period to be determined by him.

Article 18

If the secretary has not received the additional information or further explanations requested from the applicant within the period specified or to be determined in Articles 16 and 17, the application will not be processed. The secretary notifies the applicant of this in writing.

Article 19

The applicant can withdraw the application in writing up to the moment the board makes a decision, after which the processing of the application is discontinued.

Article 20

If the applicant dies after submitting the application and before the board has made a decision, the application will still be processed at the request of the applicant's spouse, registered partner and/or adult children, under application of Article 34. When financial compensation is awarded, only the costs effectively incurred by the applicant are eligible for reimbursement.

Article 21

Following a relevant written request from the applicant, the application and all related documents will be destroyed by the secretary within 2 months, after which the processing of the application will be discontinued. The secretary notifies the applicant of this in writing.

Oral hearing/written explanation

Article 22

If the secretary believes the application contains all the required information, the applicant will be given the opportunity to explain the application orally or in writing to the advisory committee.

Artikel 23

If the applicant indicates that he wishes to explain the application in writing, the secretary will give the applicant the opportunity to provide a written explanation within a period to be determined by him. The secretary adds the written explanation to the application file.

Article 24

The applicant may, if desired and at his own expense, be assisted by an authorised representative during the oral hearing. The applicant must notify the secretary of this no later than 7 days before the oral hearing.

Participants in the oral hearing are the chairman, a behavioural scientist as a member and a mediator or recovery coach as a member, assisted by the secretary.

The chairman of the advisory committee can assign the oral hearing to a member of the advisory committee. In the latter case, the member of the advisory committee will be assisted by the secretary.

Article 25

Within 4 weeks of receiving the applicant's notification that he wishes to make use of the oral hearing, the secretary will determine a day, time and place for the oral hearing and will invite the applicant to attend, stating the composition of the advisory committee.

During the oral hearing, the applicant will be given the opportunity to explain the application orally.

The oral hearing has a private nature and is not public.

Article 26

The secretary draws up a business report of the oral hearing, which is adopted and signed by the chairman or the member who was charged with the oral hearing. The secretary sends the written report of the oral hearing to the applicant for information purposes and adds it to the application file.

Article 27

If the applicant does not wish to pursue the application after the oral hearing or the written explanation, this can be communicated in writing to the secretary within 3 weeks of the oral hearing or within 3 weeks of the written explanation being sent. If the applicant does not pursue the application, the application will be discontinued. If the applicant maintains his request, the secretary will send the application file to the advisory committee for consideration within 4 weeks of receiving the applicant's notification. In both cases, the secretary notifies the applicant of this in writing.

The assessment of applications for compensation

Article 28

If the applicant sends a written notice to maintain the application after the oral hearing or if the applicant has indicated in writing not to make use of the oral hearing or has indicated in writing to maintain the application after providing a written explanation, the advisory committee will assess the application for authenticity.

Article 29

The entire committee will participate in the assessment of the application, preferably in the same composition as the advisory committee that conducted the oral hearing.

Article 30

The advisory committee is completely independent in its advice and judges with due observance of the principles of reasonableness and fairness.

Article 31

During the assessment of the application, the advisory committee may ask the secretary to obtain further information or details from the applicant.

Article 32

The advisory committee can ask the board and/or pastoral carer(s) mentioned in the application or the oral hearing for a written response to facts and circumstances described by the applicant. The response of the board and/or pastoral carer(s) will be sent to the applicant by the secretary within two weeks of receiving it. The applicant can reply to this in writing within four weeks of receiving this response. The response from the board and/or the pastoral carer(s) and any response from the applicant will be added to the application file by the secretary.

Article 33

The advisory committee may obtain written information from one or more experts, whether or not at the request of the applicant. The written response of the expert will be sent to the applicant by the secretary within two weeks of receiving it. The applicant can reply to this in writing within four weeks of receiving the findings of the experts.

The written notification from the expert(s) and any response from the applicant will be added to the application file by the secretary.

The advice of the advisory committee

Article 34

If the advisory committee considers the application as not authentic, the advisory committee will issue written advice to the board - without sending the underlying file of the application - stating the grounds on which the advice is based.

Article 35

If the advisory committee assesses the application as authentic, the advisory committee will issue reasoned written advice to the board - without sending the underlying file of the application - taking into account the following:

- a. in the event the applicant has requested recognition of and/or an apology for the normative and thus uniform culture at the time, the advice may include:
 - a (reconciliation) meeting with the board; and/or
 - written acknowledgement by the board of mental suffering and/or written apologies by the board; and/or
 - assistance with referral to and reimbursement of costs of professional help up to a maximum amount of € 2,500.
- b. in the event of mental suffering where a diagnosis is made in the treatment sector according to the professional standard and the causal relationship between the mental suffering and the (care) culture of the society is not subject to reasonable doubt, the advice may include: reimbursement of incurred costs of psychological/psychiatric help or assistance up to a maximum amount of €5,000.
- c. in the event of mental suffering where no diagnosis has been made in the treatment sector according to the professional standard and the causal relationship between the mental suffering and the (care) culture of the society is not subject to reasonable doubt, the advice may include: psychological/psychiatric help or assistance up to a maximum amount of € 2,500.

Article 36

In principle, proof of mental suffering can only be provided by a written report/message from a BIG-registered doctor or GZ psychologist which indicates, to the satisfaction of the advisory committee, at least that there is psychological/psychiatric support that is directly related to the prevailing organisational culture experienced by the applicant and/or resulting actions of pastoral carers within the Apostolic Society, what the diagnosis, if any, is, during which period treatment took place and (if applicable) when it ended.

Article 37

In principle, the costs of psychological/psychiatric help or assistance are only eligible for reimbursement if and insofar as the applicant can demonstrate that a health insurer does not or has not (fully) reimbursed these costs.

Article 38

The secretary will give the applicant the opportunity, within a period to be determined by former, to be the first to take note of the advice as referred to in Articles 32 and 33 of these regulations, with the option of blocking the advice. If the applicant blocks the advice, the application will be discontinued. The secretary notifies the applicant of this in writing.

Article 39

If the applicant, after being given the opportunity to do so, has indicated in writing that he will not block the advice, the secretary will inform the board of the advice within 4 weeks of receiving the applicant's notice. The secretary notifies the applicant of this in writing.

The decision-making process within the board

Article 40

After receiving the advice, the board will make a decision within 8 weeks, with due observance of these regulations and the advisory committee's advice on the application. The board can extend this period by a maximum of 4 weeks. The board may delegate the decision-making to one or more board members designated by it.

Article 41

The board itself will not also investigate the existence of mental suffering. The board may request further advice from the advisory committee for its decision-making. In that case, Articles 32 and 33 apply by analogy.

Article 42

If the board fully adopts the advice of the advisory committee, it will suffice for the board to refer to that advice in its decision. The advice of the advisory committee is attached to the decision.

Article 43

If the board does not (fully) adopt the committee's advice, this will be motivated in the decision in a manner deemed appropriate by the board. The advice of the advisory committee is attached to the board decision.

Article 44

On the advice of the advisory committee, the board may - in very exceptional cases which it believes qualify for this - in consultation with the applicant and without having to apply the provisions of these regulations, decide on a different form of compensation.

Article 45

The interpretation of these regulations is reserved for the board.

Other provisions

Article 46

All periods referred to in these regulations that are intended for the reporting centre employee, the secretary, the advisory committee and the board are target periods.

Article 47

No objection or appeal can be brought against board decisions based on these regulations.

Article 48

The applicant is not entitled to reimbursement of costs of legal aid.

Article 49

The board supervises the payment of any compensation awarded within four weeks of the date of the board decision.

Article 50

Under these regulations, compensation is granted without final discharge being demanded of the applicant.

Article 51

The reporting centre employee, the members of the advisory committee, the secretary and the board have a duty of confidentiality with regard to everything they learn of during the implementation of these regulations.

Article 52

The file relating to the application will be retained and archived in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
The file relating to the application will be destroyed three years after the processing of the application has been stopped or after the board has decided on the application.

Article 53

In all cases not provided for by these regulations, the board decides, with due observance of the principles of reasonableness and fairness.

Article 54

The board may amend or withdraw these regulations.