

First criminal hearing for Bishop Finn moved to January

Joshua J. McElwee | Dec. 14, 2011 NCR Today

The first hearing in the criminal case against Bishop Robert W. Finn, head of the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese, has been postponed until Jan. 12.

Both Finn and the diocese [were charged in October by authorities in Jackson County, Mo.](#) [1] with separate counts of failing to report suspected child abuse in the case of Fr. Shawn Ratigan, a diocesan priest who was arrested in May for child pornography.

The hearing was originally scheduled for Dec. 15. Mike Mansur, the communications director of the Jackson County prosecutor's office, told *NCR* the delay came at the request of the bishop's lawyers.

News of the delay comes about a month after Finn dodged separate charges of failing to report abuse in Clay County, Mo., by [agreeing to give the prosecutor there wide-ranging oversight of diocesan review procedures](#) [2] in the county.

The diocesan chancery is located in Jackson County. The parish where Ratigan last served as pastor is in Clay County.

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Links:

[1] <http://ncronline.org/news/accountability/kc-bishop-charged-failure-report-child-abuse>

[2] <http://ncronline.org/news/accountability/prosecutor-agreement-finn-protects-children>