



St. Anthony of Padua  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**August 6, 2019**

*St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Statement Regarding a Civil Lawsuit Filed Against  
The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston & St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church*

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church has made a commitment to be transparent. In keeping with this promise, we are providing the following information:

On July 25, 2019, an adult parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church filed a civil lawsuit against the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and our parish. The parishioner plaintiff alleges that she was subjected to non-physical, psychological and emotional abuse by a lay volunteer. The parishioner further alleges that the Archdiocese and the parish failed to properly train and supervise the lay volunteer. The parishioner plaintiff and the lay volunteer are both adults.

Prior to the filing of this lawsuit, the parishioner plaintiff brought concerns to parish personnel. Parish leadership promptly and appropriately responded to those concerns. The parish met with the parishioner plaintiff, immediately removed the lay volunteer from all ministry, contacted the Archdiocese, and indefinitely suspended the ministry programs associated with the plaintiff's concerns.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church categorically denies that the parishioner plaintiff was damaged by anything that parish leaders did or failed to do.

The church has no ill will towards the person who brought this lawsuit. We value that person as a member of our parish community, and we will continue to look for a redemptive outcome. We ask for continued prayers for all the impacted individuals, and for the church.