

§400 OTHER LAWS

§401 INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

401.1. Policy Diocesan Policies and Procedures ordinarily shall not restate the universal laws of the Church, e.g., the Code of Canon Law, nor include specific local policies which apply only to the internal operations of an Diocesan office or agency. Such policies and procedures shall be incorporated by reference in the Diocesan Policies and Procedures.

§402 FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

402.1. Policy The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois shall follow all applicable civil laws, in so far as they are not contrary to divine law and unless provided otherwise in canon law. (Canon 22).

Procedures

- a) The determination of whether any applicable civil laws are contrary to divine law or canon law is normally made by the Bishop in consultation with the Chancellor, the Vicar General, and the Office of Legal Services and Policy Development.
- b) The following examples illustrate the rare but not impossible nature of such exceptions to the general rule that civil laws are always to be followed:
 - 1) If federal health care legislation required all physicians and hospitals, whether public or private, to perform abortions, clearly canon 1398 would require Catholic physicians and hospitals to disobey this law.
 - 2) If a city ordinance required all schools, whether public or private, to distribute contraceptives, Church teaching would require Catholic schools to disregard such a law.

Note

This policy was enacted to cover the numerous laws and regulations that are not mentioned in Diocesan policy books, but which the Diocese recognizes and follows. Some civil laws will be covered in these books because of their importance and frequency of application in the Diocese.