



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
6 JUNE 2022**

**AGC'S RESPONSE TO STATEMENT BY THE  
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SINGAPORE**

On 5 June 2022, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore issued a public statement, "*Religious Order Provides Clarity on Recent Court Case*" ("**the Statement**"), which was subsequently reported in the media. The case mentioned in the Statement involved the abuse of minors within a particular Catholic Order.

2 The Statement stated that "*for greater accountability and transparency in the matter, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore requested the Attorney General's Chambers ("AGC") to partially lift the Gag Order on the case, in relation to the identity of the offender, the name of the order, and details of the offender's subsequent treatment and postings. The AGC informed that they had carefully considered our request but were unable to accede to it.*"

3 The gag order, which was applied for by AGC and issued by the Court, was specifically to protect the identity of the victims. It was not in any way sought to protect the interests of the accused person, or of the Catholic Order involved. The gag order covered the identity of the accused because, based on the facts and circumstances of the case, the identification of the accused was likely to lead to the identification of the victims.

4 After the case was brought to Court, lawyers acting on behalf of the Titular Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore ("**TRCAS**"), had written to AGC to request for a partial lifting of the gag order.

5 AGC's paramount interest was, and remains, the protection of victims. We consider every request to lift a gag order carefully as victims' interests are paramount. Therefore, we could not accede to the request from TRCAS, and declined to apply to Court to have the gag order lifted or varied.

6 More information on gag orders and, in particular, why they are applied for, is available on the AGC website at [www.agc.gov.sg/legal-processes/application-of-gag-orders](http://www.agc.gov.sg/legal-processes/application-of-gag-orders).

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ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS  
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