



OFFICE OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY ATTORNEY

John J. Choi

**Statement by Ramsey County Attorney John Choi
May 15, 2020**

We appreciate the work of Child USA in reviewing the written child protection policies of the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis (Archdiocese). We believe Child USA's innovative approach used in comparing Archdiocese policies with the child protection standards used by dioceses around the United States will serve as a useful platform to assist the Archdiocese as it continues to further develop effective child protection protocols as well as provide context for their efforts. The Child USA report can also serve as a useful scan of existing best practices for communities throughout Minnesota and the United States.

We also remain encouraged by the Archdiocese's commitment to continual improvement in the area of child protection, including seeking the advice of independent experts in the field of child protection. The information provided by Child USA, the recommendations in the Cultural Assessment Report released by our office on January 28, 2020, and the independent work done by the Archdiocese to continuously improve and monitor policies and practices all provide avenues for even stronger child protection practices moving forward. We must continue to remember that the work to protect children is a marathon with no finish line and that there is still much more to accomplish in the years to come.