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## Ananova :

# Woman to receive settlement in case alleging sex abuse by priest

A woman who claimed a priest made her pregnant and paid for her abortion will receive a \$1.2 million settlement from two dioceses in California.

Lori Haigh filed a suit in December alleging a priest with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange, the Rev John Lenihan, assaulted her when she was 14 and made her pregnant at 16.

Lenihan, 56, resigned last year after admitting sexual relationships over the years with several women and teenage girls.

Ms Haigh, now 37, said he also paid for her abortion and alleged that a priest with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, whose name she did not know, exposed himself to her.

The Los Angeles archdiocese said its investigation could not confirm alleged abuse by the unidentified priest and that it agreed to pay 20% of the settlement to avoid paying the costs of defending itself.

Bishop Tod Brown, head of the Orange diocese, apologised to Ms Haigh and other victims of sexual abuse in a statement.

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"The very painful reality of the injury caused by attacks on the innocent and vulnerable by a few priests have profoundly affected us all," Bishop Brown said.

Ms Haigh said she was surprised at how quickly her suit was settled.

"I was prepared for years. It says that they know," said Ms Haigh, who now lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

*Story filed: 01:09 Tuesday 2nd April 2002*

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