

## Considerations for Disciplinary Care of Ministers

At outset, concurrently with or after investigation:

1. Independent evaluation to determine the clinical diagnosis of offender (use of rigorous, preferably inpatient, assessment process using specialized, experienced mental health resources).  
  
**Release of results to overseeing body.**  
**Judiciary pays for this.**  
**Possible provision for second opinion.**
2. Inauguration of treatment process (not the same as the assessing process above) in light of #1 above.
3. Setting of treatment goals and accountability through regular progress reports to specified denominational party.
4. Support for livelihood other than ministry.
5. Clarity of limitations to ministerial privilege.
6. Provision of a support person/advocate for the pastor who will "walk with" through process.
7. Attending to pastoral care of family members, including their worship life.
8. Restitution (in tangible form) as appropriate.
9. Balanced awareness of potential legal ramifications (from all perspectives).
10. Disclosure in all future reference inquiries, both ecclesiastical and secular, as appropriate.
11. Consideration of outplacement services and long-term livelihood.
12. Redeployment only following a *back-to-work assessment* by competent professional authority (may be the same resource as the assessment mentioned in #1 above, but **not** the treating professional mentioned in #2)
13. Redeployment only if there is ongoing supervision of that ministry by a credentialed *clinical* supervisor who is aware of the background.
14. Redeployment only when all legal proceedings, if any, have been fully resolved; sanctions satisfied.
15. Redeployment with certain conditions or limitations as to kind of ministry, type of activities.
16. Redeployment with a "probationary" period.
17. Consider a liturgical event which marks the redeployment (pastorally and clinically this is a kind of "second ordination").
18. Notification of denominational networks.