

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
Congrégation chrétienne des Témoins de Jéhovah



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TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN CANADA

Dear Brothers:

Re: Immigration and Refugee Requests

We are writing to remind you that congregation elders should not become involved in immigration or refugee matters of individuals until the elders have first contacted the Legal Department at the branch. These are strictly personal matters for the individuals to handle, usually with the help of an immigration lawyer. It is not the role of elders to become involved.

An elder might be asked to write a letter confirming a person is associated with the congregation as a Bible student, a meeting attender, or a member of the congregation. It is not appropriate for an elder or a service committee to write such a letter. Please contact the Legal Department if anyone asks for such a letter.

It would be good to review our letter of November 15, 1999, for direction when an elder is approached on an immigration or refugee matter. Refugee claimants and their lawyers can be insistent in pressing for a letter. Often they mask their true intent, persuading elders to write a simple statement or to answer a few questions at a refugee hearing. Some elders and bodies of elders have been misled.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation of elders who have called the Legal Department as instructed. Please accept this as a kindly reminder not to take it upon yourselves to provide any statement, no matter how innocent the request may seem.

Your diligence in caring for the spiritual interests of your brothers and sisters, as well as new ones who genuinely want to draw close to Jehovah, is a gift to your congregation. (Ephesians 4:8) By working as ministers for the building up of the congregation, you will be safeguarding the trust that has been laid up in you, to the benefit of the flock and to the honor of Jehovah God.—Acts 20:28; see w89 9/15 12-15.

Please accept our warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,
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