

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

March 4, 2007

**Watchtower Bible and Tract Society
25 Columbia Hgts.
Brooklyn New York 11201-2483**

Dear Brothers:

Perhaps a little history will be helpful in answering our question. We are writing about things that took place back in about 1978 when [redacted] was about six or seven yrs. old and [redacted] was about thirteen or fourteen yrs. old. [redacted] is now forty two and [redacted] is now 36, formerly she was [redacted]. Their parents were good friends and some times [redacted] would baby sit with [redacted], it was while he was baby sitting that [redacted] says he fondled her, on several occasions, the parents met to talk about it, but [redacted] denied it and the matter was dropped.

Many years later [redacted] was bothered by what had happen to her, so she and Paula [redacted] went to bro. [redacted]'s house (he is an elder in the congregation) and described the events above. Bro [redacted] asked if she wanted to face him now at this point in her life she was perhaps twenty three or so at the time she said no but just wanted to get some relief by talking to someone about it.

Some time in May of 2002 we received instructions to the effect that if the body of elders knew of one who had been accused of molestation that we should comply with the Mass. State law and reveal that person to the authority. It was at that time that bro. [redacted] and bro. [redacted] talked to bro. [redacted] about the accusation that [redacted] had made he did not deny it. We informed him that we were going to inform the authority we asked if he wanted to face [redacted] he said no, we also contacted [redacted] and told her of our decision to turn this information over to the authority which we did a copy of which is enclosed.

I would like to back up a bit now and fill in some things about bro. [redacted] he was with The [redacted] congregatin for many yrs. during that time he had been disfellowshipped and on other occasion been counseled about pornography at least three times. He then moved to [redacted]. Perhaps three to four yrs later he returned to [redacted], when he returned he seemed to be doing fair but again we had to talk to him about pornography.

After some time passed and after we had informed the authority of his being accused of the abuse of _____ he seemed to have finally settled down and so we started to use him to pass the mikes, to read at the book study, and to pray at the book study.

As a body of elders:

It continues to be a question to us if we are going beyond what we should be doing, in using him as we do, in view of what is stated in the Letter to All Bodies of Elders dated March 14, 1997 para, 3 line 7 where it uses the word "adult" would that apply in this case and in para. 4 line 2&3, Where it says "would not qualify for privileges in the congregation." Would that apply to bro. _____. Another words should we consider bro. _____ an adult when the abuse took place when he was say fourteen and so therefore he can not be used.

There had been some pervious communication with the service dept. About bro _____ I'll include a copy of this with this letter, along with the letter we sent to the state of Mass and The one to _____. If I need to be reached by phone you can reach me at _____ that is my number bro. _____'s .

Your brothers:
The Service committee .
