

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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SDO August 28, 2007

BODY OF ELDERS
CONGREGATION OF
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, MA

Dear Brothers:

We have in hand your letter dated August 20, 2007, wherein you apprise us of the outcome of your meeting with Brother . You report that Brother assured you that he has engaged in no sexual activity with a minor other than that with Sister

. Furthermore, in your correspondence dated July 9, 2007, you informed us that Brother is not on the state-sponsored list of sexual offenders and that he is not required to report to the secular authorities if he moves. In view of the foregoing, we offer the following comments.

In your letter dated March 12, 2007, you stated that Brother presently enjoys minor privileges in the congregation – carrying microphones, and reading and representing the group in prayer at the Congregation Book Study. You inquired as to whether Brother could appropriately be extended such privileges in view of his past wrongdoing with Sister

. In light of the fact that Brother's misconduct occurred 29 years ago when he was only 13 or 14 years old, and since there has been no outcry from his victim or her family, we believe that Brother can continue to enjoy the minor privileges mentioned in your letter. Of course, if an outcry develops or there are any additional allegations of abuse lodged against Brother , you should contact the branch office immediately.

If Brother continues to make spiritual advancement, the body of elders may consider extending additional privileges. Please contact the branch office in writing *before* extending any additional privileges. Your correspondence should explain clearly what privileges are being considered, why the body of elders is convinced that Brother qualifies for such, and should refer to this letter by the date and desk symbol indicated above.

We hope these comments prove helpful as you continue to protectively oversee that portion of Jehovah's flock entrusted to your care and as you render assistance to Brother . Please be assured that your conscientious labor in behalf of the congregation is deeply appreciated. It is a privilege to be working alongside you in serving Jehovah and our brothers during these momentous times.—Zephaniah 1:14; Acts 20:28.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*