



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

LEA April 20, 2011

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: *Child Care Pack*

Dear Brothers:

Elders may learn that a publisher is facing a dispute over child care in a divorce proceeding. A pack of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child residence and contact matters in which our religion is under attack. The pack should be requested by the **body of elders only** in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child residence and contact, helpful information can be found in the *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12; in the *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14; and on the chart found in the *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

If parental rights are challenged on the basis of our Christian beliefs, or on the assertion that our beliefs are harmful to a child's best interests, the elders should immediately write to the branch office. In a rare emergency, a telephone call may be necessary. The branch will assess the facts and determine whether to send a *Child Care Pack*. The branch might be able to suggest a local solicitor who would be prepared to undertake family litigation involving Jehovah's Witnesses, if that is requested. Elders have no authority to make any promises about the branch's paying legal fees. There is no need to contact the branch in connection with a child care dispute if there is no indication that the beliefs and practices of Jehovah's Witnesses will be attacked.

When you write to the branch about a specific case, please provide the following information:

1. The names of the parents and their solicitors, if instructed.
2. The number of children involved and their ages.
3. A brief description of the facts, including the presence of any apostates.
4. A short assessment of the Christian parent's spiritual condition.—Is he or she new in the truth? Active? Inactive? Balanced?
5. The status of the legal proceedings.—Has the matter gone to court? Has the hearing date been fixed? If so, when?

This letter should be placed in the congregation file along with other items related to miscellaneous matters. We trust that this provision will be of benefit and take the opportunity to extend warm Christian greetings.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF BRITAIN