

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100

SDO June 10, 2011

BODY OF ELDERS
CONGREGATION OF
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, MA

Dear Brothers:

We have in hand your letter dated April 21, 2011, wherein you asked three questions regarding Brother [redacted] and his past involvement in child sexual abuse. Enclosed please find a copy of the S-77 form that was submitted by the judicial committee when Brother [redacted] was disfellowshipped in 1987. This copy should be included in the confidential file.

You asked if the past child abuse should be reported to the secular authorities. This question should be directed to the Legal Department. The telephone number is 845-306-1000. After you obtain direction from the Legal Department, please assign two elders to prepare a report with answers to the questions in paragraph 1, page 3, of the March 14, 1997, confidential letter to all bodies of elders. We are not suggesting that you interview Brother [redacted]'s daughter or other family members since doing so may only serve to stir up painful memories. Rather, the elders should base their comments on information in the confidential file and their own personal knowledge of the case. We have no objection to your meeting with Brother [redacted] in order to obtain information. We trust that in doing so you will deal with him in a kind, gracious manner. In preparing the report, the elders need not limit their comments to the questions in the aforementioned letter. Please include any details that will be helpful to us in understanding the situation. For example, did Brother [redacted] actually molest his daughter or did he just proposition her? What was the exact nature of the abuse? Has he been involved in inappropriate activity with any minor other than his daughter? How old is his daughter now? Is she associated with Jehovah's Witnesses? Do Brother [redacted] and his daughter have a good relationship? Please provide the daughter's name and her dates of birth and baptism if they are available. We would also like to have Brother [redacted]'s dates of birth and baptism. The completed report should include a reference to the desk symbols and date indicated above and be signed by the two elders who prepared it. It should be mailed to the branch office in a special blue envelope.

Thank you for your prompt follow-through in this serious matter. When we receive your response, we will consider how Brother [redacted]'s past involvement with a minor may affect his service privileges. Along with this letter we convey our warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*