

TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

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June 26, 2014

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: *Notification of Disfellowshipping or Disassociation*

Dear Brothers:

This is to inform you that a revised *Notification of Disfellowshipping or Disassociation* (S-77) form has been prepared. Please note the following significant adjustments from the previous procedure:

- In most cases, it will not be necessary to provide a summary of the case. If anything of significance regarding the case needs to be shared with the branch office, it should be provided in a separate letter. If an individual appeals a judicial decision, a brief summary should be sent to the Service Department only when (1) the two committees disagree or (2) the individual does not accept the decision.
- It will not be necessary to provide the individual's judicial history.
- It will not be necessary for the committee members to sign the form. Rather, their names should simply be entered in the appropriate fields.
- The branch office will not return a copy of the S-77 form to the congregation.
- On reinstatement, the chairman of the committee should write the date of reinstatement on the congregation's copy of the S-77 form. He should then send a message to the Service Department including the person's (1) full name; (2) date of birth; and (3) date of baptism; along with (4) the date the reinstatement was announced. (The S-77 form itself should not be sent.) The same information should be provided by a member of the committee if the individual dies, except that the date of death should be provided rather than the date of reinstatement.

In view of the adjustments described in this letter, each elder should make the following notations in his copy of the *Shepherding* textbook:

- In chapter 8, paragraph 10, cross out the last two sentences and write in the margin: "If the original committee agrees with the new grounds, they should adjust the S-77 form, announce the disfellowshipping, and submit the form to the branch office. The appeal committee's brief summary should be retained in the confidential file along with a copy of the S-77 form and the brief summary of the original committee."
- In chapter 8, paragraph 13, cross out the existing sentences and replace with the following: "The original committee should submit the completed S-77 form to the branch office. The appeal committee's brief summary should be retained in the confidential file along with a copy of the S-77 form and the brief summary of the original committee."
- In chapter 8, paragraph 18, cross out the last four sentences and write in the margin: "On the other hand, if both committees now agree not to disfellowship the individual, the appeal committee should inform him of the final decision in the presence of the judicial committee. The appeal committee's brief summary should be retained in the confidential file along with the brief summary of the original committee."

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Please accept an expression of our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

Testigos Cristianos de Jehová

c: Traveling overseers

PS to secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation permanent file of policy letters. Along with this letter you can also download from jw.org an updated *Index to Letters for Bodies of Elders* (S-22) at this time as well.

This letter replaces the letters dated October 1, 2007, about “Reporting judicial matters to the branch office;” November 21, 2013, regarding “Using jw.org when reporting judicial matters;” and August 19, 2014, on the “List of Scriptures to indicate the reason for disfellowshipping and disassociation.” Those letters should be removed from the congregation permanent file of policy letters and be destroyed. This letter also modifies the letters dated September 17, 2011, and October 1, 2012, regarding the use of the *Registration of Disfellowshipping and Disassociation* (S-79) card.

Effective **December 1, 2014**, the bodies of elders will begin using the new S-77 form, which is now available on jw.org. For this reason, the branch office will no longer return the S-79 card to the congregation.