

Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses

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SDK:SSA March 27, 2000

 COPY

BODY OF ELDERS
PALMER CONGREGATION OF
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, MA
C/O [REDACTED]
20 SCHOOL ST
WARE MA 01082-1141

Dear Brothers:

Thank you for your letter dated February 14, 2000, in which you provided further information with regard to the case of [REDACTED]. Since [REDACTED] is now giving you permission as elders to talk with her father about the accusations that she has made regarding his past sexual abuse of her, you wonder if the matter should now be pursued judicially. We provide the following for your consideration.

Before you proceed judicially it would be important for you to ascertain that both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are willing to either meet with their father face to face or talk to him over the telephone about their accusations against him. A judicial committee cannot be formed based on what [REDACTED] has told the elders. Rather, she has to be in a position to face her father with the accusations, but not necessarily in person. Until that takes place it would not be appropriate to form a judicial committee.

In addition, a matter of importance is also the testimony of [REDACTED]. Is her testimony based on actual memory or on "repressed memory?" If her testimony is not based on repressed memories and she is willing to either face her father or talk to him on the telephone with elders present to hear the interchange and if [REDACTED] is also willing to face her father about the accusations she has against him, then you may feel that it is appropriate to proceed.

We trust that the guidelines presented in this letter will prove helpful to you in caring for this matter appropriately. We look forward to receiving your future correspondence informing us as to the outcome of this matter. We send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*