



# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

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SDM:SSK June 29, 2005

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

Dear Brothers:

We are writing in regard to matters involving Brother [REDACTED] and the additional charges raised against him of child molestation. After investigating the allegations raised, there is not sufficient evidence for a judicial committee to be formed. However, in view of his past wrongdoing involving child molestation, we are providing the following direction that applies to Brother [REDACTED]

For good reason, the January 1, 1997, issue of *The Watchtower*, page 29, states: "A dedicated adult Christian who falls into the sin of child sexual abuse reveals an unnatural fleshly weakness. Experience has shown that such an adult may well molest other children. True, not every child molester repeats the sin, but many do. And the congregation cannot read hearts to tell who is and who is not liable to molest children again. (Jeremiah 17:9) Hence, Paul's counsel to Timothy applies with special force in the case of baptized adults who have molested children: 'Never lay your hands hastily upon any man; neither be a sharer in the sins of others.' (1 Timothy 5:22) For the protection of our children, a man known to have been a child molester does not qualify for a responsible position in the congregation." Therefore, in the best interest of the congregation and its members, neither the local congregation nor any legal corporations used by Jehovah's Witnesses should be viewed as delegating authority or position to one who is a known child molester.

Now that we have given careful and prayerful consideration to all the factors in the case of Brother [REDACTED] we believe that what is stated in the foregoing applies to him. Hence, you should not extend to him any specific responsibility that could be construed as an assigned duty, even though some assignments might be considered minor. He should not be used to handle accounts, literature, magazines, or territories. Nor would he be used as an attendant, microphone handler, to operate sound equipment, to represent the congregation in prayer, or to present "Announcements" on the Service Meeting. He would not be used as the reader at the Congregation Book Study or *Watchtower* Study, nor to conduct a meeting for field service. It would be advisable not to have a book study in his home. And, he would not qualify to auxiliary or regular pioneer. Whereas he could volunteer to assist with general care of the Kingdom Hall where he attends meetings, he could not be approved to work on other Kingdom Halls or Assembly Halls. It will be many years, if ever, before privileges of service can be restored. Even if in the distant future you were considering him for the privileges mentioned in this paragraph, you should contact the branch office.