

For Immediate Release  
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## **Jehovah's Witnesses to appeal jury verdict in California case**

NEW YORK—Jehovah's Witnesses will appeal the decision of a California jury in a court case involving alleged acts of child abuse.

The jury rendered a multimillion-dollar damage award to a woman who claimed that she was molested as a child by a member of a local congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. At trial, the plaintiff claimed that the policies of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society contributed to the alleged abuse. "We respectfully disagree with the jury's decision. This is the first time that an organization was found responsible for the alleged misdeeds of a member who held no position of leadership or authority," states James McCabe, an attorney representing Watchtower in the case. "We are very sorry for whatever harm this young lady may have suffered. However, the organization is not responsible. We now look to the Court of Appeals for a thorough review of this case."

J. R. Brown, a spokesman at the world headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses, commented: "The fact that Jehovah's Witnesses abhor child abuse and strive to protect children from such acts is well-known. The individual members of any organization must ultimately bear the responsibility for their own actions, particularly when the acts are so flagrantly against the morals and principles of the organization and society."

### Related Links:

Web Article: Jehovah's Witnesses and Child Protection

Video: Dealing with Child Abuse—Jehovah's Witnesses' Policy

Video: Inquiries on Child Abuse—Jehovah's Witnesses' Response

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