

SSD NOV 23 1993

North Congregation #15685
Fremont
c/o Michael L. Clarke
32852 Bass Lake St.
Fremont, Ca 94555

Nov 15, 1993

Watchtower Bible & Tract Society
25 Columbia Heights
Brooklyn, New York, 11201 USA

Dear Brothers,

We are writing to you regarding a case of child abuse. We telephoned 11/12/93 and it was suggested that we submit in writing our questions.

We met on 11/11/93 with Jonathan Kendrick, a ministerial servant, who confessed to child abuse with his 15 yr old step daughter. The abuse occurred approximately 4 months ago. He confessed to touching the breast of his step daughter while she was sleeping. She was awoken instantly and knew what had happened. His wife was informed that evening and the 3 of them talked it out between them. Brother Kendrick thought since he was sorry and his family was willing to forget the abuse, he would not have to report it to the congregation elders. He said that his conscious continued to bother him.

Evelyn, his wife, is baptized but inactive. She occasionally attends meetings.

Andrea, the step daughter, is not baptized and is no longer an unbaptized publisher. The step daughter is now using this as a tool to threaten with when she wants something. Because she has been promiscuous with 2 boys at school, the parents have tried to enforce house rules covering her comings and goings.

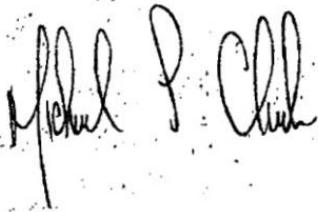
Andrea has recently mentioned the abuse to another young girl, Toy Register, whom she attends school with. Coincidentally, Toy attends our congregation meetings and is studying. Her mother is disfellowshipped. Toy mentioned the abuse to her mother and added that Brother Kendrick on another occasion had accidentally touched her chest but admitted that it was not intentional. Mrs Register is now threatening to call the police.

Here are the facts as best as we can present them without interviewing each party. Our questions are as follows:

1. Can 2 elders handle this matter with Brother Kendrick as mentioned on page 93 of "Pay attention to Yourselves...Flock", under the heading Uncleaness? Or do we have to form a Judicial hearing because of it being child abuse?
2. We assume that Brother Kendrick does not qualify any longer as a Ministerial Servant. We will announce to the congregation that he is no longer serving as such. If this is incorrect, please inform us.
3. The legal department has given us some direction as far as our legal requirements and we will follow that closely.

We will wait to hear from you regarding the above questions. If I have not been clear enough, you may reach me during the day at my work phone (610-462-7881 ext 105)

Your Brothers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael P. Clark". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Your Brothers,".

SCN:SST December 3, 1993
~~SSG~~

BODY OF ELDERS
NORTH CONGREGATION OF
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, FREMONT, CA
C/O MICHAEL J CLARKE
32852 BASS LAKE ST
FREMONT CA 94555

Dear Brothers:

Your letter dated November 15, 1993, has been received. As you will note from the enclosed S-52 form, Brother Jonathan Kendrick has been deleted from serving as a ministerial servant on the grounds of "uncleanness."

Your letter states: "He confessed to touching the breasts of his stepdaughter while she was sleeping. She was awakened instantly and knew what had happened." Since this incident is known by outside members of the family, it is appropriate that Brother Kendrick be deleted from serving as a ministerial servant with your congregation.

On page 92 of the Kingdom Ministry School textbook the following is stated: "Uncleanness includes an intentional momentary touching of sexual parts or caressing of breasts. Such minor uncleanness can be handled at the discretion of an elder or two; it does not require a judicial hearing. There is a need for strong counsel, admonition, and assistance to help the individual to maintain chaste conduct in the future."

In harmony with the above, it will not be necessary for a judicial committee to handle the "uncleanness" committed by Brother Kendrick. However, it would be appropriate for two elders to meet with him and provide him with strong Scriptural counsel so as to avoid a repetition of such a serious offense.

We trust the above comments will be helpful to you. With this letter we are pleased to send you an expression of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

cc: R. Rainer, CA #40