

silentlambs



Are pedophiles protected by policies of Jehovah's Witnesses?

When Witness officials have chosen to respond to the media about this question, they offer misinformation and tell uninformed Jehovah's Witnesses that this is not a problem. The question that begs to be answered is where does the truth lie? Could this organization be a pedophile paradise? When the accused molester is one of Jehovah's Witnesses, a review of the five following questions can help you form an opinion about this issue.

1. If a confessed/convicted pedophile were to move into a congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, would the members be informed by anyone in the church?

2. If you were one of Jehovah's Witnesses and a pedophile molested your child, would you be allowed to warn other parents in your congregation?

3. If a pedophile denied he molested your child, and you could not produce another witness to the act of molestation, would the church discipline the pedophile in any way?

4. If state law does not require church officials to report that a minor has been molested, will it be reported?

5. If, as an adult, you charge a pedophile of molestation when you were a child and he denies it, will the church discipline the pedophile? Would they remove the sex offender from serving in any official capacity?

The answers to the above questions are **NO**. If Jehovah's Witnesses endeavor to state otherwise, they have been misinformed about Watchtower policy.

If you would like to learn the reasons we answer **NO** to these questions, please review our website at www.silentlambs.org. Therein, you will find the testimony of hundreds of victims of molestation whose experiences agree with **silentlambs** conclusions. Our organization is endeavoring to reach out to those who suffer as silentlambs, those who are afraid to speak out because of the threats and sanctions their religion may place against them. **Silentlambs** is a **(501,C,3) non-profit organization** dedicated to the healing and closure, which victims of child molestation so desperately need. Help for victims of sexual abuse by one of Jehovah's Witnesses or by sex

offenders in any religion can be reached at **1-877-WTABUSE**. The first step to expose this great wrong that has been wrought on so many innocent children is to **SPEAK OUT**.

IT IS TIME TO PROTECT CHILDREN. IT IS TIME TO STOP BEING A SILENTLAMB!

Specific Symptoms

Children who have been sexually abused frequently have specific symptoms:

- Copying adult sexual behavior
- Persistent sexual play with other children, themselves, toys or pets
- Displaying sexual knowledge, through language or behavior, that is beyond what is normal for their age
- Unexplained pain, swelling, bleeding or irritation of the mouth, genital or anal area; urinary infections; sexually transmitted diseases
- Hints, indirect comments or statements about the abuse

If you need assistance we can be reached at:

Silentlambs
PO Box 311,
Calvert City, KY 42029
www.silentlambs.org

1-877-WTABUSE (982-2873)

Signs of Sexual Abuse

Because most children cannot or do not tell about being sexually abused, it is up to concerned adults to recognize signs of abuse. Physical evidence of abuse is rare. Therefore, we must look for behavior signs.

Unfortunately, there is no one behavior alone that definitely determines a child has been sexually abused.

The following are general behavior changes that may occur in children who have been sexually abused:

- Physical complaints
- Fear or dislike of certain people or places
- Sleep disturbances
- Headaches
- School problems
- Withdrawal from family, friends, or usual activities
- Excessive bathing or poor hygiene
- Return to younger, more babyish behavior
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Discipline problems
- Running away
- Eating disorders
- Passive or overly pleasing behavior
- Delinquent acts
- Low self-esteem
- Self-destructive behavior
- Hostility or aggression
- Drug or alcohol problems
- Sexual activity or pregnancy at an early age
- Suicide attempts

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The Silent Problem

Children become silentlambs when they do not tell anyone about sexual abuse because they:

- are too young to put what has happened into words
- were threatened or bribed by the abuser to keep the abuse a secret
- feel confused by the attention and feelings accompanying the abuse
- are afraid no one will believe them
- blame themselves or believe the abuse is punishment for being "bad"
- feel too ashamed or embarrassed to tell
- worry about getting into trouble or getting a loved one into trouble

Silence enables sexual abuse to continue. Silence protects sexual offenders and hurts children who are being abused. Sexual abuse is an extremely difficult and damaging experience. Today, there are many resources to help victims and their families. **Children no longer need to suffer as silentlambs.**