



WHO IS KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR?

IT COULD BE AN ABUSER THAT'S GONE UNREPORTED

They come to your house dressed neatly, wearing a smile. They knock on your door with a Bible in hand, ready to share their knowledge with you and your children. They seem harmless enough, but...

You may be shocked to learn that the Watchtower organization of Jehovah's Witnesses has policies in place that can actually serve to safeguard the identity of child molesters. In some cases, such ones can even attain positions of trusted authority. Watchtower's instructions for dealing with accusations of child abuse insist that "there must be two or three eyewitnesses" to any such abuse, and that "no action can be taken if there is only one witness."

In other words, unless someone other than the child witnessed the abuse, nothing will be done. Parents in the congregation will not automatically be warned that a child molester is in their midst, the authorities will not automatically be called (unless required by law), and children cannot be certain of protection. Worse still, an accused child molester will still be expected to get involved in the preaching work, which means that there is no way to tell for sure whether the Witness on your doorstep is a child molester or not.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you suspect a child is being abused in any way, call the police FIRST. They are trained to deal with these situations, and will be able to offer the proper assistance.

And, the next time one of Jehovah's Witnesses knock at your door, ask them to explain their policy that hides predators and leaves children as their easy prey.

"If the accused denies the accusation, the investigating elders should try to arrange a meeting with him and the accuser together...if the accused continues to deny the accusation of the single witness and the wrongdoing is not established, the elders will leave matters in Jehovah's hands."

Source: Shepherd the Flock of God, published by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, 2010, pp. 71-72.

WATCHTOWER POLICY: LEAVE IT "IN GOD'S HANDS," UNLESS COMPELLED BY LAW TO DO SO

According to the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, we have a national emergency. Child abuse has reached epidemic proportions, with some three million reports each year, the majority of which turn out to be accurate. And it's estimated that millions more cases go unreported.

ABUSE MUST BE REPORTED NOT HIDDEN