

# Reference Document

## "The One Lawsuit Against Watchtower That Might Actually Work"

Every Claim, Source, and Verification Status

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### How to Use This Document

Each entry identifies a specific factual claim made in the video script, the source it is based on, where to verify it, and any notes on confidence level. Claims are organized in the order they appear in the script.

#### Verification levels:

- **PRIMARY** — Sourced from court rulings, legislation, official Watchtower publications, or peer-reviewed research
  - **SECONDARY** — Sourced from academic researchers, established advocacy/legal resource sites, or reputable journalism
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### SECTION 1: The Official Story

**Claim: Watchtower's website says that when a family member is disfellowshipped, "blood ties remain" and "normal family affections and dealings continue."**

- **Source:** JW.org FAQ: "Are Former Jehovah's Witnesses Shunned?"
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/shunning/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct quote from official Watchtower source
- **Note:** The full FAQ context also states "The religious ties he had with his family change, but blood ties remain. The marriage relationship and normal family affections and dealings continue."

**Claim: In 1987, the Ninth Circuit ruled in Paul v. Watchtower that shunning is protected religious exercise. The court acknowledged harms were "real and not insubstantial."**

- **Source:** \*Paul v. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.\*, 819 F.2d 875 (9th Cir. 1987)
  - **URL:** <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/F2/819/875/245063/>
  - **Verification:** PRIMARY — Federal appellate court ruling
  - **Key quote from ruling:** "Although we recognize that the harms suffered by Janice Paul are real and not insubstantial, permitting her to recover for intangible or emotional injuries would unconstitutionally restrict the Jehovah's Witnesses free exercise of religion."
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### SECTION 2: The Clinical Framework (Parental Alienation)

**Claim: Parental alienation has four specific diagnostic criteria that must all be present.**

- **Source:** Documentary: "Parental Alienation — In the Eyes of the Specialists"
- **URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQXSAVUNngg>

- **Producer:** Equal Parenting Rights Association, Iceland ([www.foreldrafnretti.is](http://www.foreldrafnretti.is))
- **Filmed at:** PASG 2019 International Conference (Parental Alienation Study Group), Philadelphia, USA, September 2019
- **Specialists interviewed:** Amy Baker (Four-Factor Model), William Bernet (Historical Highlights), Ben Burgess (Crazy Making Issues), Linda Gottlieb (Reunification), Jennifer Harman (Targeted Parents), Steven Miller (Evidence Based Science), Karen Woodall (Trans-Generational Trauma), Nick Woodall (Splitting of the Self), Shawn Wygant (Third Party Alienation)
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct specialist statements in documentary
- **Supporting academic source:** Bernet, W. et al. (2021), consensus definition cited in Harman & Matthewson (2020); also referenced in APA (2022) \*Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings\*

**Claim: The four criteria are: (1) child rejects parent for non-protective reason, (2) rejection is unreasonable, (3) alienating influence present, (4) child strongly aligned with alienating party.**

- **Source:** "Parental Alienation — In the Eyes of the Specialists" (PASG 2019), specialist statement: "the model says that four things need to be present in order to know that a rejecting child is alienated. All four have to be present."
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct specialist quote from documentary

**Claim: The child's greatest anxiety is that the favored parent will become emotionally unavailable.**

- **Source:** "Parental Alienation — In the Eyes of the Specialists" (PASG 2019): "their greatest anxiety is that parent will become emotionally unavailable to them"
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct specialist quote

**Claim: Non-specialists "almost always mistake pathological enmeshment for healthy bonding."**

- **Source:** "Parental Alienation — In the Eyes of the Specialists" (PASG 2019): direct specialist quote
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct specialist quote

**Claim: Alienating parents use "the same loyalty-inducing strategies as people who groom children for sexual abuse."**

- **Source:** "Parental Alienation — In the Eyes of the Specialists" (PASG 2019): "Alienating parents use a lot of the same strategies of loyalty inducing things that people who are trying to groom children to be sexually abused use."
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct specialist quote

**Claim: The alienating parent presents with the "4 C's" (cool, calm, charming, convincing) while the targeted parent has the "4 A's" (anxious, agitated, angry, afraid).**

- **Source:** "Parental Alienation — In the Eyes of the Specialists" (PASG 2019): "The alienator presents with the 4C's... cool, calm, charming and convincing. By contrast, the alienated parent, the targeted parent, has the 4A's. He or she is anxious, agitated, angry or afraid."
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct specialist quote

### **Claim: Alienated children freed from the loyalty conflict reconnect "like a light switch."**

- **Source:** "Parental Alienation — In the Eyes of the Specialists" (PASG 2019): reunification therapist describing how children "will accept the other parent like this! Like a light switch!"
  - **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct specialist quote
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## **SECTION 3: The Watchtower Overlay**

### **Claim: The Shepherd the Flock of God book says a judicial committee is formed for "unnecessary association" with a removed nonrelative, but not for family contact.**

- **Source:** \*Shepherd the Flock of God\* (STFOG), 2025 edition, Chapter on "Unnecessary Association With Persons Who Have Been Removed," paragraph 21
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official internal Watchtower publication (2025 edition; not publicly hosted but copy retained for verification)
- **Direct text:** "A committee should be formed if, despite repeated counsel, an individual willfully and continually engages in unnecessary association with a nonrelative who has been removed from the congregation or who has disassociated himself."

### **Claim: Allowing a DF'd adult family member to live in your home calls an elder's/ministerial servant's qualifications into question.**

- **Source:** STFOG, 2025 edition, paragraph 17: "Allows an Adult Family Member Who Has Been Removed From the Congregation or Has Disassociated Himself to Live in His Home"
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official internal Watchtower publication (2025 edition; not publicly hosted but copy retained for verification)
- **Direct text:** "The body of elders should evaluate whether the brother's attitude and actions show respect for the admonition found in 1 Corinthians 5:11."

### **Claim: STFOG instructs that believing relatives "will likely determine to limit family association severely, viewing the relative as bad association."**

- **Source:** STFOG, 2025 edition, paragraph 16-17 (section on publishers who have not associated for many years)
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official internal Watchtower publication (2025 edition; not publicly hosted but copy retained for verification)
- **Direct text:** "If the sinful conduct is known only to believing family members and no congregation action has been taken, believing relatives will likely determine to limit family association severely, viewing the relative as bad association.—1 Cor. 15:33."

### **Claim: In a peer-reviewed study, one former JW reported knowing since age five that they would die during Armageddon.**

- **Source:** "What Happens to Those Who Exit Jehovah's Witnesses: An Investigation of the Impact of Shunning," PMC9803876
- **URL:** <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9803876/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Peer-reviewed study published in PMC
- **Direct quote from participant (James, 27, disassociated):** "I've known since I was five years old that I would die during Armageddon."

**Claim: Researcher Jerry Bergman documented children in custody cases telling non-JW fathers they would be destroyed at Armageddon.**

- **Source:** Bergman, J. "Dealing With Jehovah's Witness Custody Cases," published across multiple academic papers (1976–1992); compiled at [culteducation.com](http://culteducation.com)
- **URL:** <https://culteducation.com/group/1267-jehovah-s-witnesses/11534-dealing-with-jehovahs-wi...>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Academic researcher's published work compiled on established resource site
- **Key documented case:** Children of a physician told their father "unless he became a Witness, he would soon be destroyed at Armageddon" and "only they and their mother were going to survive."

**Claim: In the Kansas custody case, the court found the child believed non-Witnesses who celebrate Christmas are "going to die."**

- **Source:** \*Estes\*, 89-C6103, Johnson County, KS, 1991 — documented in Bergman's research
- **URL:** <https://culteducation.com/group/1267-jehovah-s-witnesses/11534-dealing-with-jehovahs-wi...>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Court case documented in academic research
- **Key finding:** Court ruled the child was "becoming more and more alienated from his father and from his extended family, believing that 'Christmas persons'... are going to die."

**Claim: A non-JW father described his five-year-old daughter telling him she was afraid he would die at Armageddon.**

- **Source:** [4jehovah.org](http://4jehovah.org), "Preparing Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses for Child Custody"
- **URL:** <https://www.4jehovah.org/preparing-ex-jehovahs-witnesses-for-child-custody/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — First-person account on established EXJW legal resource site
- **Direct quote:** "the other day, my five-year old daughter told me that she is afraid that I will 'die' when Armageddon comes because I am not a Jehovah's Witness."

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## SECTION 4: The Progressive Commitment Pipeline (Enjoy Life Forever!)

**Claim: JW.org says "you are not obligated in any way" to become a Witness if you study with them.**

- **Source:** JW.org FAQ: "Am I Expected to Become One of Jehovah's Witnesses if I Study the Bible With Them?"
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/become-jehovahs-witness/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower source
- **Also documented at:**  
<https://jwfaq.org/2020/09/09/am-i-expected-to-become-one-of-jehovahs-witnesses-if-i-stu...>

**Claim: Early lessons (1-8) in \*Enjoy Life Forever!\* focus on hope, comfort, paradise, and God's love.**

- **Source:** \*Enjoy Life Forever! An Interactive Bible Course\*, Lessons 1-8 (Section 1)
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication
- **URL (online version):** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/enjoy-life-forever/>

- **Section 1 focus:** "Consider how the Bible can help you and how you can get to know its Author"
- **Lesson titles include:** "How Can the Bible Help You?", "The Bible Gives Hope", "Who Is God?", "You Can Be Jehovah's Friend"

**Claim: Lesson 13 teaches all religions other than JW's are "false religion" — "Babylon the Great" — destined for destruction by God.**

- **Source:** \*Enjoy Life Forever!\*, Lesson 13: "How False Religion Misrepresents God"
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication
- **Direct text from publication:** "Soon, God will put an end to all false religion.—Revelation 18:8."

**Claim: Lesson 48, "Choose Your Friends Wisely," teaches that people who don't love Jehovah are "bad association" and warns that "close friends outside the congregation can cause us to draw away from Jehovah."**

- **Source:** \*Enjoy Life Forever!\*, Lesson 48: "Choose Your Friends Wisely"
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication
- **Direct text:** "Friends who love and worship Jehovah can help you to stay close to him and to make good decisions. But close friends outside the congregation can cause us to draw away from Jehovah."
- **Additional text:** Section 3 subtitle: "Beware of bad association"

**Claim: Lesson 58, "Remain Loyal to Jehovah," warns against apostates and tells students not to read their materials, websites, or videos.**

- **Source:** \*Enjoy Life Forever!\*, Lesson 58: "Remain Loyal to Jehovah"
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication
- **Direct text:** "It is dangerous for us to argue with any opposers, to read their books or blogs, to go to their websites, or to watch their videos."

**Claim: Lesson 10 encourages meeting attendance; Lesson 14 introduces active participation.**

- **Source:** \*Enjoy Life Forever!\*, Lessons 10 and 14
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication
- **Lesson 10:** "How Can the Meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses Benefit You?"
- **Lesson 14:** "How Can Our Worship Be Pleasing to God?" (includes singing, commenting)

**Claim: The publication's appendix lists requirements for becoming an "unbaptized publisher" — including withdrawing from other religious or political organizations.**

- **Source:** \*Enjoy Life Forever!\*, Appendix: "Am I Ready to Preach With the Congregation?"
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication
- **Direct text includes:** "Have withdrawn your membership from any political or false religious association" and "Live according to Jehovah's standards and want to be one of Jehovah's Witnesses."

**Claim: Baptism requirements include supporting the "faithful and discreet slave" (the Governing Body) forever.**

- **Source:** \*Enjoy Life Forever!\*, Appendix: "Am I Ready to Get Baptized?"

- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication
- **Direct text:** "Support and follow the direction of 'the faithful and discreet slave.'—Matthew 24:45-47" and "Have dedicated yourself to Jehovah in prayer and want to serve him forever."

**Claim: Lesson 3 teaches the "last days"; later lessons teach Armageddon will destroy all non-JWs.**

- **Source:** \*Enjoy Life Forever!\*, Lesson 3 and later sections
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication
- **Lesson 3 text:** "The Bible refers to our time as 'the last days.'"
- **Later text:** "Jesus, the King of God's Kingdom, will destroy wicked people and governments at the war of Armageddon."

**Claim: Internally, a student who doesn't progress is described as not "rightly disposed for everlasting life."**

- **Source:** \*Watchtower Study Edition\*, January 2020, p. 7, par. 20
- **URL (JW FAQ analysis with direct quotes):**  
<https://jwfaq.org/2020/09/09/am-i-expected-to-become-one-of-jehovahs-witnesses-if-i-stu...>
- **URL (original Watchtower article):** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/watchtower-study-january-2020/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official Watchtower publication
- **Direct text:** "Rather than spend more time conducting an unproductive study, we need to find someone who gives evidence that he is 'rightly disposed for everlasting life.'"

## SECTION 5: The Legal Graveyard

**Claim: Belgium's criminal court convicted JW's of incitement to discrimination in 2021; Court of Appeal reversed in 2022; Court of Cassation confirmed shunning is lawful in December 2023.**

- **Source:** Belgian Court of Cassation ruling, December 19, 2023
- **URL:** <https://hrwf.eu/belgium-the-court-of-cassation-upholds-the-right-of-jehovahs-witnesses-...>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Court ruling documented by Human Rights Without Frontiers
- **Key finding:** The Court "decisively rejected all arguments made by UNIA and the individual complainants and fully upheld the decision of the Ghent Court of Appeal."

**Claim: Norway deregistered JW's in 2022; Oslo District Court upheld in January 2024; Court of Appeal reversed in March 2025; government appealed to Supreme Court; case heard in early February 2026.**

- **Sources:**

- Oslo District Court ruling, March 4, 2024:

<https://www.jw.org/en/news/region/norway/Jehovahs-Witnesses-to-Appeal-Unconstitutional-Ruling-in-Norway/>

- Borgarting Court of Appeal ruling, March 14, 2025: <https://www.jw.org/en/news/region/norway/Court-of-Appeal-Una-nimously-Overturns-Unconstitutional-Ruling-in-Norway/>

- Government appeal to Supreme Court, April 2025:  
<https://avoidjw.org/news/norway-appeal-childrens-rights-court-shunning/>
- February 2026 Supreme Court hearing: Documented at  
<https://avoidjw.org/news/norway-appeal-childrens-rights-court-shunning/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Court rulings and official news sources

**Claim: Watchtower announced cosmetic changes to shunning terminology on March 15, 2024 — days after the Oslo ruling.**

- **Source:** Watchtower August 2024 study edition; timeline documented at [avoidjw.org](https://avoidjw.org)
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/norway-the-price-we-pay-jehovahs-witnesses-appeal-2025/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Documented on established EXJW research site with timeline
- **Note:** The terminology change from "disfellowshipped" to "removed from the congregation" is documented in the August 2024 Watchtower. Proximity to the Oslo ruling is factual (March 4 ruling → March 15 announcement).

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## SECTION 6: The Two Cases That Cracked the Wall

**Claim: In *Bear v. Reformed Mennonite Church* (1975), the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that shunning could interfere with the state's interest in maintaining family relationships, and a tort claim could proceed.**

- **Source:** \**Bear v. Reformed Mennonite Church*\*, 462 Pa. 330 (1975)
- **URL:** <https://law.justia.com/cases/pennsylvania/supreme-court/1975/462-pa-330-0.html>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — State Supreme Court ruling
- **Key finding:** The court found the complaint "raises issues that the 'shunning' practice... may be an excessive interference within areas of 'paramount state concern,' i.e. the maintenance of marriage and family relationship, alienation of affection, and the tortious interference with a business relationship."

**Claim: In *Guinn v. Church of Christ of Collinsville* (1989), the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that discipline of former members who have withdrawn is not protected by the First Amendment and can constitute intentional infliction of emotional distress.**

- **Source:** \**Guinn v. Church of Christ of Collinsville*\*, 775 P.2d 766 (Okla. 1989)
- **URL:** <https://law.justia.com/cases/oklahoma/supreme-court/1989/10494.html>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — State Supreme Court ruling
- **Key holding (per Church Law & Tax):** "Discipline of persons who have effectively withdrawn their church membership is not a constitutionally protected activity, and churches that engage in such conduct can be sued under existing theories of tort law."
- **Church Law & Tax URL:** <https://www.churchlawandtax.com/legal-developments/the-guinn-case/>

**Claim: Direct quote from Guinn ruling: "No real freedom to choose religion would exist in this land if under the shield of the First Amendment religious institutions could impose their will on the unwilling and claim immunity from secular judicature for their tortious acts."**

- **Source:** \**Guinn v. Church of Christ of Collinsville*\*, 775 P.2d 766, paragraph 35
- **URL:** <https://law.justia.com/cases/oklahoma/supreme-court/1989/10494.html>

- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Direct quote from state Supreme Court ruling

### **Claim: Bear, Guinn, and Paul represent conflicting precedent — the law is unsettled.**

- **Source:** Analysis at "How Have U.S. Courts Decided in Cases of Religious Shunning?" — Preach From The Housetops
- **URL:** <https://preachfromthehousetops.com/2022/04/05/how-have-u-s-courts-decided-in-cases-of-r...>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Legal analysis article citing all three cases
- **Note:** The article cites academic analysis by Austin J. (law review article "East of Eden: A Contractual Lens For An Unsettled Area of First Amendment Shunning Jurisprudence") confirming the "dissonance" across these rulings.

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## **SECTION 7: The Composite Lawsuit Theory / Mechanism**

### **Claim: The APA's 2022 custody guidelines list "parental alienating behaviors" alongside physical abuse and neglect as threats to children's well-being.**

- **Source:** American Psychological Association (2022), \*Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings\*, p. 5
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — APA official guidelines
- **Cited in:** Harman et al., "Countering Arguments Against Parental Alienation as A Form of Family Violence and Child Abuse," \*Journal of Family Therapy\* (2024)
- **URL for citing article:** <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01926187.2024.2396279>
- **APA quote (as cited):** "the foci of a child custody evaluation may encompass, among other factors, threats to the child's safety and well-being, such as physical and emotional abuse, neglect, coercion, and the presence of parental alienating behaviors"

### **Claim: STFOG includes a specific section on child custody instructing elders to contact the Legal Department when a publisher's religious beliefs are at issue in a custody lawsuit.**

- **Source:** \*Shepherd the Flock of God\*, 2025 edition, Chapter on "Child Custody," paragraph 9
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official internal Watchtower publication (2025 edition; not publicly hosted but copy retained for verification)
- **Direct text:** "If publishers become involved in a lawsuit over child custody and visitation matters, two elders should contact the Legal Department if the answers to all of the following questions are yes: (1) Is it evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue? (2) Has someone been served with papers to appear in court? (3) Is the litigation between two biological parents? (4) Is the publisher in good standing in the congregation?"

### **Claim: As far back as the mid-1980s, Watchtower's Legal Department was receiving 80-90 custody-related inquiries per month.**

- **Source:** [jwdivorces.bravehost.com](http://jwdivorces.bravehost.com), "Legal Issues Affecting Children of Jehovah's Witnesses"
- **URL:** <https://jwdivorces.bravehost.com/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established EXJW legal resource site
- **Note:** The site states: "In the mid-1980s, when there were [fewer JW]s in the United States as there are in 2016, the Watchtower Society's Legal Department was receiving 80-90 inquiries per month from its own Jehovah's Witnesses Members who were involved in divorce-related custody disputes."

**Claim: New Jersey defined "predatory alienation" in law in 2017 (P.L. 2017, Chapter 64) — the definition includes "extreme undue influence on, or coercive persuasion or psychologically damaging manipulation... that disrupts a parent-child relationship... or isolates the person from family and friends." The law explicitly names cults.**

- **Source:** New Jersey S2562 / P.L. 2017, Chapter 64
- **URL:** [https://pub.njleg.gov/bills/2016/S3000/2562\\_I1.HTM](https://pub.njleg.gov/bills/2016/S3000/2562_I1.HTM)
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — State legislation
- **Direct statutory text:** "'predatory alienation' means a person's extreme undue influence on, or coercive persuasion or psychologically damaging manipulation of, another person that results in physical or emotional harm or the loss of financial assets, disrupts a parent-child relationship, leads to a deceptive or exploitative relationship, or isolates the person from family and friends."
- **Cults explicitly named:** The study examines "how online predators, human traffickers, con artists, gangs, cults, and other groups use predatory alienation."

**Claim: The Predatory Alienation Prevention and Consensual Response Act (A3627) is currently in the NJ legislature.**

- **Source:** NJ A3627 / A3648
- **URL:** [https://pub.njleg.gov/Bills/2024/A4000/3627\\_I1.HTM](https://pub.njleg.gov/Bills/2024/A4000/3627_I1.HTM)
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Pending state legislation
- **Note:** Verify current status before publication as legislative status may change.

**Claim: California defines undue influence as "excessive persuasion that overcomes free will" and lists "spiritual adviser" as a category of apparent authority.**

- **Source:** California Welfare & Institutions Code §15610.70; California Probate Code §86
- **URL (official state legislature):** [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=15610.70...](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=15610.70...)
- **URL (FindLaw):** <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/welfare-and-institutions-code/wic-sect-15610-70/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — State statute
- **Direct statutory text:** "'Undue influence' means excessive persuasion that causes another person to act or refrain from acting by overcoming that person's free will and results in inequity."
- **Apparent authority factors include (§15610.70(a)(2)):** "status as a fiduciary, family member, care provider, health care professional, legal professional, spiritual adviser, expert, or other qualification."

**Claim: A Rutgers University study commissioned under the NJ law mapped tactics used by cults.**

- **Source:** "Evaluating the State of Predatory Alienation in New Jersey," Final Report, November 2017 — Rutgers University Center on Violence Against Women and Children
- **URL:** <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/news/reportsnewsletters/dcfreportsnewsletters/Predatory-Alienati...>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — State-commissioned academic research report

**Claim: Over a thousand JW custody cases per year in the US.**

- **Source:** Bergman, J. "Dealing With Jehovah's Witness Custody Cases"

- **URL:** <https://culteducation.com/group/1267-jehovah-s-witnesses/11534-dealing-with-jehovahs-wi...>
  - **Verification:** SECONDARY — Academic researcher's estimate
  - **Direct text:** "In the United States there are over 1,000 custody cases fought annually involving Jehovah's Witness."
  - **Note:** This figure is from Bergman's research; exact current numbers are not independently verifiable as Watchtower does not publish custody case statistics.
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## SECTION 8: Where It's Already Working (Evidence Block 3)

**Claim: In the Kansas case (Estes, 1991), a court removed a child from a JW mother's custody because the child was being alienated from his father.**

- **Source:** \*Estes\*, 89-C6103, Johnson County, KS, 1991 — documented in Bergman's research
- **URL:** <https://culteducation.com/group/1267-jehovah-s-witnesses/11534-dealing-with-jehovahs-wi...>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Court case documented in academic research
- **Key detail:** "the court ruled that the child... was to be removed from the mother's home and placed in the custody of the father largely because the mother was raising the child as a Witness."

**Claim: Researchers documented children telling evaluators they learned from the Kingdom Hall that the opposing parent is of Satan.**

- **Source:** Bergman, J. "Dealing With Jehovah's Witness Custody Cases"
  - **URL:** <https://culteducation.com/group/1267-jehovah-s-witnesses/11534-dealing-with-jehovahs-wi...>
  - **Verification:** SECONDARY — Academic researcher's documented case studies
  - **Direct text:** "In many of the cases the author worked with, the children openly admitted that they learned from the Kingdom Hall or their mother that opposing fathers are of Satan and not to be associated with."
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## SECTION 9: Sticky Ending

**Claim: Professor Robin Boyle-Laisure at St. John's University School of Law has published 40+ articles on undue influence, cults, and human trafficking; sits on ICSA's board; book published by Bloomsbury.**

- **Source:** St. John's University School of Law faculty page
- **URL (faculty page):** <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/faculty/robin-boyle-laisure>
- **URL (Amazon — book):** <https://www.amazon.com/Taken-No-More-Children-Traffickers/dp/B0F791Q1PR>
- **URL (ICSA book review):**  
<https://internationalculticstudies.org/books/book-review-of-taken-no-more-protect-your-...>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — University faculty page, Amazon listing, ICSA review
- **Correct book title:** \*Taken No More: Protect Your Children Against Traffickers and Cults\* (Bloomsbury, 2025)
- **Key publications confirmed:**

- "Preventing Predatory Alienation by High-Control Groups" — \*Int'l J. Coercion, Abuse & Manipulation\* Vol. 1, No. 2 (2021)

- "Undoing Undue Influence: How the Doctrine Can Avoid Judicial Subjectivity by Omitting the Vulnerability Element" — \*Am. J. Trial Advoc.\* 47(1) (2024)
  - \*Taken No More: Protect Your Children Against Traffickers and Cults\* (Bloomsbury, 2025)
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## SECTION 10: Additional Supporting Sources (for description box)

### Parental Alienation Documentary

- **Title:** "Parental Alienation — In the Eyes of the Specialists"
- **URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQXSAVUNngg>
- **Producer:** Equal Parenting Rights Association, Iceland ([www.foreldrajafnretti.is](http://www.foreldrajafnretti.is))
- **Filmed at:** PASG 2019 International Conference (Parental Alienation Study Group), Philadelphia, USA, September 2019
- **Specialists interviewed:** Amy Baker, William Bernet, Ben Burgess, Linda Gottlieb, Jennifer Harman, Steven Miller, Karen Woodall, Nick Woodall, Shawn Wygant
- **Contains:** Multiple specialist interviews including forensic psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, and reunification therapists

### Watchtower "Bad Association" Doctrine

- **Source:** "Watch Your Associations in These Last Days," \*Watchtower Study Edition\*, October 19-25, 2015
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/magazines/ws20150815/watch-associations-last-days/>
- **Key text:** "Bad associations spoil useful habits" (1 Cor. 15:33); "Do not become unevenly yoked with unbelievers" (2 Cor. 6:14)

### Sociologist Andrew Holden on JW Meetings

- **Source:** Referenced in Wikipedia article on Jehovah's Witnesses practices, citing Holden's sociological research
- **URL:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses\\_practices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses_practices)
- **Finding:** Meetings create atmosphere of uniformity, intensify belonging, reinforce plausibility of belief system; frequency designed to protect Witnesses from "becoming involved in the affairs of the world"

### Watchtower Instructions to "Prepare Students for Persecution"

- **Source:** \*Watchtower\* (study article on conducting progressive Bible studies)
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/201982443>
- **Direct text:** "Sometimes a factor that can block the progress of a Bible student is opposition... Often this comes from members of his own family or his work associates. It is vital that you prepare the student for such persecution."

### "Predatory Alienation" Article Mapping Watchtower Practices

- **Source:** "Does the Watchtower Society Employ Predatory Alienation?" — Preach From The Housetops
- **URL:** <https://preachfromthehousetops.com/2022/04/10/does-the-watchtower-society-employ-predat...>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Advocacy analysis article mapping Watchtower practices to NJ statutory definition

### **PMC Peer-Reviewed Study on Shunning Impact**

- **Source:** "What Happens to Those Who Exit Jehovah's Witnesses: An Investigation of the Impact of Shunning"
- **URL:** <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9803876/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Peer-reviewed research

### **ICSA Summary of Boyle-Laisure's Legal Framework**

- **Source:** "Applying human trafficking laws to coercive groups and cults: Legal challenges and new opportunities for victim litigation in the US"
- **URL:** <https://internationalculticstudies.org/research-highlights/applying-human-trafficking-l...>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — International Cultic Studies Association research highlight (February 2026)