

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

"They Took Her to Bethel"

EVERY CLAIM, SOURCE, AND VERIFICATION STATUS

How to Use This Document

Each entry identifies a specific factual claim made in the video, 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 video.

Verification levels:

- **PRIMARY** — Sourced directly from the court filing itself, official court rulings and legislation, trial exhibits, or Watchtower's own documents. Primary sources can stand on their own.
- **SECONDARY** — Sourced from published court opinions summarizing prior cases, or reputable investigative journalism. Most defensible when paired with the primary record.

A necessary note on this case. The lawsuit described in this video is a **civil complaint that has been filed but not proven**. Every allegation about the abuse and the organization's conduct is exactly that — an **allegation**, drawn from the plaintiff's complaint. The individual defendants are entitled to defend themselves; the eleven Governing Body members are named for alleged **organizational and policy responsibility**, not accused of personally committing the abuse. Nothing here asserts that any allegation has been established in court.

Section 1: The Lawsuit and the Survivor's Account

All claims in this section are allegations set out in the filed complaint, *D.B. Doe v. The Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses et al.*

A lawsuit was filed in June 2026 in New York Supreme Court, Kings County (Brooklyn), against the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, Watchtower, and the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

SOURCE: *D.B. Doe v. The Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses et al.*, verified complaint, Kings County index 522573/2026 (filed June 16, 2026). The Zalkin Law Firm, LLP.

URL: New York State Courts Electronic Filing (NYSCEF) — iapps.courts.state.ny.us/nyscef (search by index number 522573/2026).

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — the court filing itself.

The plaintiff was born in 1980; her family were Jehovah's Witnesses in Philadelphia, and an elder named Preston Green and his wife were sent into the family's home by the congregation to help care for the plaintiff's sibling, who has Down Syndrome.

SOURCE: Verified complaint, ¶¶10, 73–74.

URL: [NYSCEF, index 522573/2026](#).

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — allegations in the complaint.

The complaint alleges the abuse began around 1985, when the plaintiff was five, and that on at least five occasions Green took her, unaccompanied, to the world headquarters (Bethel) in Brooklyn and abused her on the property — which the organization allegedly knew about.

SOURCE: Verified complaint, ¶¶75–78.

URL: [NYSCEF, index 522573/2026](#).

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — allegations in the complaint.

In 1992, when she was twelve, the plaintiff disclosed the abuse to the congregation's elders during her baptism process, and the elders commanded her not to tell anyone.

SOURCE: Verified complaint, ¶81.

URL: [NYSCEF, index 522573/2026](#).

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — allegation in the complaint.

Section 2: The Documented Policies

A July 1, 1989 letter to all bodies of elders instructed that when elders receive reports of child abuse, they should contact the Society's Legal Department immediately, and directed elders to preserve confidentiality and resist searches of congregation records.

SOURCE: Watchtower letter "To All Bodies of Elders," July 1, 1989 (a trial exhibit in Jehovah's Witness abuse litigation), reproduced in the Hearst Television National Investigative Team document file.

URL: [Hearst Television investigative file \(PDF\)](#)

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — Watchtower's own letter.

KEY QUOTE: *"When elders receive reports of physical or sexual abuse of a child, they should contact the Society's Legal Department immediately."*

A March 14, 1997 letter directed U.S. congregations to report men in appointed positions known to have molested children, to send those reports to headquarters in a "Special Blue" envelope, and stated that a man known to have been a child molester does not qualify for a responsible position.

SOURCE: Watchtower letter "To All Bodies of Elders," March 14, 1997 (trial exhibit), Hearst Television document file.

URL: [Hearst Television investigative file \(PDF\)](#)

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — Watchtower's own letter.

KEY QUOTE: *"For the protection of our children, a man known to have been a child molester does not qualify for a responsible position in the congregation."* Elders were told to send reports "to the Society in the 'Special Blue' envelope."

The complaint alleges these letters, and a follow-up in July 1998, warned of "possible legal consequences of appointing a known child molester," and that the organization's Service Department has never made a mandated child abuse report to law enforcement.

SOURCE: Verified complaint, ¶¶68–71.

URL: [NYSCEF, index 522573/2026](#).

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — allegations in the complaint. (The July 1998 follow-up is described in the complaint; the 1989 and 1997 letters above are the underlying documents.)

Under the "two-witness rule," the complaint states that when abuse is alleged, unless there are two witnesses or a confession, the accused is treated as innocent and no protective action is taken.

SOURCE: Verified complaint, ¶65 (describing the organization's judicial policy).

URL: [NYSCEF, index 522573/2026](#).

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — as pleaded in the complaint.

NOTE: This rule has been examined at length in prior coverage on this channel and in the 2015 Australian Royal Commission's findings.

Section 3: The Legal Wall — and the Ruling That Broke It

Governing Body member Gerrit Lösch submitted a sworn declaration stating that Watchtower has no authority over him — used to resist being deposed.

SOURCE: Declaration of Gerrit Lösch, February 4, 2014, *Lopez v. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of New York* (San Diego Superior Court).

URL: [DocumentCloud — Gerrit Losch Declaration](#)

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — the sworn court filing.

KEY QUOTE: *"I do not answer to Watchtower... Watchtower does not have, and never has had, any authority over me."*

In November 2024, a New York appellate court ruled that the Governing Body is a legal ("jural") entity that can be sued as an unincorporated association — relying in part on Watchtower's own organizational document describing the corporation as one "used by the Governing Body."

SOURCE: *RKJW1 Doe v. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of N.Y., Inc.*, 2024 NY Slip Op 05467 (App. Div., 2nd Dept., Nov. 6, 2024).

URL: [Justia — RKJW1 Doe v. Watchtower](#)

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — a published appellate decision.

KEY QUOTE: the Governing Body is "a jural entity capable of being sued as an unincorporated association"; its own document showed a "Coordinators' Committee" with "oversight of legal matters and crises." (Covered previously on this channel.)

Section 4: How This Lawsuit Is Built Differently

The complaint names all eleven current Governing Body members individually and pleads the rotating "coordinator" role in the alternative so that whoever currently holds it is named.

SOURCE: Verified complaint, ¶¶20–31 (naming Cook, Fleegle, Herd, Jackson, Jedele, Lett, Lösch, Rumph, Sanderson, Splane, Winder).

URL: [NYSCEF, index 522573/2026](#).

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — the complaint. Named for alleged organizational/policy liability, not accused of personally committing abuse.

The case is filed under New York City's Gender-Motivated Violence Protection Law, including a January 2026 amendment (§10-1104.1) that added retroactive liability for any party that "directs, enables, participates in, or conspires in" gender-motivated violence, reaching conduct before 2022.

SOURCE: N.Y.C. Admin. Code §10-1104.1, added by Local Law 50 of 2026 (enacted over the mayor's veto, January 29, 2026); §10-1101 et seq.

URL: [intro.nyc — Local Law 50 of 2026](#)

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — the enacted legislation.

NOTE: This retroactive provision is new and untested; as stated in the video, a challenge to its validity is the case's real legal risk.

The complaint argues that a sexual assault on a child who cannot consent is, by its nature, motivated by the victim's gender — a reading New York courts have already accepted.

SOURCE: Verified complaint, ¶86; the standard is drawn from *Breest v. Haggis*, 179 A.D.3d 5 (1st Dept. 2019).

URL: [Cornell LII — Breest v. Haggis](#)

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — the complaint and the controlling appellate decision.

Section 5: The Vow of Poverty

Governing Body members take a "Vow of Obedience and Poverty," and that vow expressly allows the organization to release a member from it — meaning it does not truly bar a member from holding or making money.

SOURCE: Watchtower's own "Vow of Obedience and Poverty to the Order of Special Full-Time Servants of Jehovah's Witnesses"; and *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*, "How Is It All Financed?"

URL: jw.org — Proclaimers, "How Is It All Financed?"

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — Watchtower's own document.

KEY QUOTE: the vow requires turning over income above living expenses "*unless released from this vow by the Order.*"

At least two of the named Governing Body defendants have real-estate transactions on record while under that vow, indicating personal financial activity beyond the "penniless" image — a point discovery could open up fully.

SOURCE: Public county property records, reviewed in the creator's prior reporting on Governing Body finances.

VERIFICATION: **SECONDARY** — based on public property records; the underlying vow-and-exemption is **PRIMARY** (above). The point that the true figures are unknown is expressly framed in the video as something only sworn discovery could resolve.

In 2001, the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses took over the Service Department (and its abuse records) from Watchtower for no consideration, with no change in location, staffing, or operation.

SOURCE: Verified complaint, ¶¶34, 42.

URL: [NYSCEF, index 522573/2026](#).

VERIFICATION: **PRIMARY** — as pleaded in the complaint.

Section 6: Watchtower's Litigation Pattern

Ordered in prior cases to produce its internal database of abusers, Watchtower has repeatedly accepted court penalties rather than comply — including a struck defense and default, and per-day sanctions that an appeals court upheld while calling the organization a "recalcitrant litigant."

SOURCE: *Lopez v. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of N.Y.* (Cal. Ct. App., 2016) and *Padron v. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of N.Y.* (Cal. Ct. App., 2017).

URL: [Justia — Lopez v. Watchtower](#) · [Justia — Padron v. Watchtower](#)

VERIFICATION: **SECONDARY** / **PRIMARY** — published appellate opinions.

NOTE: In *Lopez*, the terminating-sanction default was reversed on appeal as too severe a first step, and the case later settled; the appellate court agreed the documents had to be produced. In *Padron*, the \$4,000-per-day sanctions were affirmed.

Section 7: Additional Supporting Sources

New York's revival-statute standard and its Child Victims Act precedent.

SOURCE: *Matter of World Trade Center Lower Manhattan Disaster Site Litig.*, 30 N.Y.3d 377 (2017); Child Victims Act revival upheld in *PB-36 Doe v. Niagara Falls City Sch. Dist.* (4th Dept. 2023).

URL: [Legal summary of the CVA revival standard](#)

VERIFICATION: **SECONDARY** — legal commentary on the controlling precedent.

CONTAINS: Why New York claim-revival windows have survived due-process challenge, and the standard the new NYC provision will be tested against.

This lawsuit is an active, unproven civil case. Every allegation described in the video is drawn from the plaintiff's filed complaint and remains to be tested in court. The documents and rulings cited above can be verified at the links provided.