

Reference Document

"The Loophole Watchtower Knows Parents Won't Use"

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 from court rulings, legislation, official Watchtower publications (including internal manuals like *Shepherd the Flock of God*), peer-reviewed research, SEC filings, IRS filings, Charity Commission filings, or other government / regulatory records. Primary sources can stand on their own.
- **SECONDARY** — Sourced from established advocacy or legal resource sites, academic researchers, or reputable investigative journalism (Reuters, AP, BBC, regional papers of record). Secondary sources support claims and are most defensible when paired with a primary or another independent secondary.

SECTION 1: The May 8, 2026 Broadcast

Claim: On May 8, 2026, Governing Body member Mark Sanderson announced on the worldwide JW Broadcasting monthly update that new episodes of *The Good News According to Jesus* (episodes four, five, and six) would be released on JW.org and the JW Library app prior to the 2026 regional convention, and that this adjustment allows parents to preview the content first and then prepare their young children for what will be shown at the convention.

- **Source:** 2026 Governing Body Update #3, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/news/region/global/2026-Governing-Body-Update-3/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published broadcast and accompanying announcement
- **Key quote / Direct text:** "This adjustment allows parents to preview the content first and then prepare their young children for what will be shown at the convention."

Claim: Watchtower's own description of *The Good News According to Jesus* video series states that Jesus "reveals his power to heal people and expel demons."

- **Source:** *The Good News According to Jesus* series page, jw.org
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/videos/good-news-according-to-jesus/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published series description
- **Key quote / Direct text:** "Jesus reveals his power to heal people and expel demons."

SECTION 2: The Children's Content Track Record

Claim: *My Book of Bible Stories* was published by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in 1978 and has been distributed in tens of millions of copies in seventy languages. It remains available on JW.org and in the Watchtower Online Library.

- **Source:** *My Book of Bible Stories*, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, 1978; current edition on JW.org
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/bible-stories/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own publication

Claim: Story 6 of *My Book of Bible Stories* (“A Good Son and a Bad One”) depicts the killing of Abel, including the illustration of Abel lying dead on the ground.

- **Source:** *My Book of Bible Stories*, Story 6, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/bible-stories/2/cain-kills-abel/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication

Claim: Story 14 of *My Book of Bible Stories* (“God Tests Abraham’s Faith”) depicts Abraham raising a knife over his bound son Isaac.

- **Source:** *My Book of Bible Stories*, Story 14, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/bible-stories/2/god-tests-abrahams-faith/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication

Claim: Story 15 of *My Book of Bible Stories* (“Lot’s Wife Looked Back”) covers the destruction of Sodom. The official study questions for Story 15, published in the same volume, ask: “What does this Bible account show regarding God’s view of homosexuality?”

- **Source:** *My Book of Bible Stories*, Story 15 and accompanying study questions, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/bible-stories/study-questions/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication, official study questions
- **Key quote / Direct text:** “Read Genesis 19:1-29. What does this Bible account show regarding God’s view of homosexuality?”

Claim: Story 50 of *My Book of Bible Stories* (“Two Brave Women”) tells the story of Deborah and Jael and depicts Jael driving a tent peg through Sisera’s temple.

- **Source:** *My Book of Bible Stories*, Story 50, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/bible-stories/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication

Claim: Story 58 of *My Book of Bible Stories* (“David and Goliath”) depicts David standing over Goliath’s body following his killing of Goliath with a slingshot.

- **Source:** *My Book of Bible Stories*, Story 58, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/bible-stories/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower publication

SECTION 3: Watchtower's Published Standard on Entertainment

Claim: The May 8, 1988 issue of *Awake!*, in an article titled “What’s So Horrible About Horror Movies?”, warned readers about “the spiritistic and demonistic overtones of many horror films” and asked whether a “Christian youth” would be “standing firm against the machinations of the Devil if he fed himself on a diet of films that featured spiritism.”

- **Source:** *Awake!*, May 8, 1988, pp. 18-20, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/101988326>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published magazine on the Watchtower Online Library
- **Key quote / Direct text:** “the spiritistic and demonistic overtones of many horror films”

Claim: The July 22, 1990 issue of *Awake!*, in an article titled “Does It Matter Which Movies I See?”, warned about horror films “portraying satanic possession, rape, and bloodletting by the most diabolical of means.”

- **Source:** *Awake!*, July 22, 1990, pp. 10-12, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/101990524>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published magazine on the Watchtower Online Library
- **Key quote / Direct text:** “portraying satanic possession, rape, and bloodletting by the most diabolical of means”

Claim: The May 8, 2005 issue of *Awake!*, in an article titled “Which Movies Will You See?”, warned that “movies for children and teens may contain elements of witchcraft, spiritism, or other kinds of demonism.”

- **Source:** *Awake!*, May 8, 2005, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/102005323>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published magazine on the Watchtower Online Library
- **Key quote / Direct text:** “elements of witchcraft, spiritism, or other kinds of demonism”

Claim: The June 15, 1995 issue of *The Watchtower*, in an article titled “Sacred Service With Your Power of Reason”, told members that exposing themselves to “spiritism that is present in much of this world’s entertainment is highly unwise.”

- **Source:** *The Watchtower*, June 15, 1995, pp. 18-23, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1995444>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published magazine on the Watchtower Online Library
- **Key quote / Direct text:** “Going beyond these guidelines and exposing ourselves to the immoral thinking, gross violence, or spiritism that is present in much of this world’s entertainment is highly unwise.”

Claim: The current *Enjoy Life Forever!* book, Lesson 53, “Choose Entertainment That Pleases Jehovah,” states: “a lot of popular entertainment features things that Jehovah hates, such as violence, sexual immorality, or spiritism.”

- **Source:** *Enjoy Life Forever!* — *An Interactive Bible Course*, Lesson 53, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/library/books/enjoy-life-forever/section-4/lesson-53/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own current Bible study publication
- **Key quote / Direct text:** “a lot of popular entertainment features things that Jehovah hates, such as violence, sexual immorality, or spiritism”

SECTION 4: The Legal Pressure — France

Claim: On May 10, 2024, France enacted Loi n° 2024-420, an updated anti-cult statute that strengthens criminal penalties and creates new mechanisms for prosecuting psychological manipulation by religious groups.

- **Source:** Loi n° 2024-420 du 10 mai 2024 visant à renforcer la lutte contre les dérives sectaires, République Française, Journal Officiel
- **URL:** <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000049523123>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official text of French national legislation, Légifrance

Claim: The French Constitutional Council upheld the statute three days earlier, on May 7, 2024, in Decision 2024-865 DC.

- **Source:** Décision n° 2024-865 DC du 7 mai 2024, Conseil constitutionnel
- **URL:** <https://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/decision/2024/2024865DC.htm>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official decision of the French Constitutional Council

Claim: Article 223-15-3 of the French Penal Code, as inserted by Loi n° 2024-420, criminalizes “psychological subjection” with a base penalty of three years’ imprisonment and a 375,000 euro fine. When committed against a minor, the penalty rises to five years and 750,000 euros. When committed in an organized group by members of an organization whose activities aim to create or maintain psychological subjection, it rises to seven years and one million euros.

- **Source:** Code pénal, Article 223-15-3, République Française
- **URL:** https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/article_jo/JORFARTI000049523137
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official text of the French Penal Code, Légifrance

Claim: The same statute creates an “amicus curiae” mechanism allowing prosecutors and judges to formally consult State services — including MIVILUDES, France’s anti-cult observatory — when interpreting psychological subjection in court, and gives anti-cult associations the right to join cases as civil parties.

- **Source:** Loi n° 2024-420, Article 6, inserting Article 157-3 into the Code of Criminal Procedure
- **URL:** <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000049523123>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official text of French national legislation, Légifrance

Claim: MIVILUDES (Mission interministérielle de vigilance et de lutte contre les dérives sectaires) and its predecessor agencies have, since the 1995 French parliamentary commission on cults, named Jehovah’s Witnesses as a target organization.

- **Source:** MIVILUDES annual reports; 1995 Parliamentary Commission Report on Cults (Rapport Gest-Guyard); MILS predecessor agency reporting
- **URL:** <https://www.miviludes.interieur.gouv.fr/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — French government agency reporting and parliamentary record

SECTION 5: The Legal Pressure — Sweden

Claim: On October 24, 2025, Sweden’s Agency for Support to Faith Communities (Myndigheten för stöd till trossamfund / SST) denied Jehovah’s Witnesses’ application for state subsidies under Act 2024:487. In its reasoning, as reported, the agency cited that disfellowshipping is especially harmful when applied to minors.

- **Source:** Bitter Winter coverage of SST decision, October 24, 2025; Human Rights Without Frontiers reporting
- **URL:** <https://bitterwinter.org/jehovahs-witnesses-and-state-subsidies-in-sweden-3-the-october-blow/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Investigative religious-freedom reporting; the underlying SST decision is the primary record
- **Note:** The phrase “especially harmful when applied to minors” appears in Bitter Winter’s reporting on the SST decision.

Claim: On October 2, 2025, Isak Reichel, Director General of the SST, acknowledged on a Swedish radio podcast that the underlying law was politically motivated, noting that the government had been clear it did not believe Jehovah's Witnesses should receive state subsidies and that the regulations had been changed accordingly.

- **Source:** Human Rights Without Frontiers OSCE statement on Sweden, citing Reichel's October 2, 2025 podcast appearance
- **URL:** <https://hrwf.eu/sweden-state-discrimination-against-jehovahs-witnesses-denounced-at-the-osce-by-hrwf/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — HRWF reporting with direct quotation of Reichel's on-air statements

SECTION 6: The Legal Pressure — Norway

Claim: On April 29, 2026, the Supreme Court of Norway issued judgment HR-2026-1009-A in the case brought by the State against Jehovah's Witnesses concerning denial of registration and state subsidies.

- **Source:** Norwegian Supreme Court, judgment HR-2026-1009-A, April 29, 2026
- **URL:** <https://hrwf.eu/norway-the-supreme-court-dismisses-all-accusations-against-jehovahs-witnesses/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Norwegian Supreme Court ruling, with HRWF translation of the official summary

Claim: The Norwegian Supreme Court unanimously concluded that the State had not presented sufficient evidence to show that Jehovah's Witnesses subject underage members to psychological abuse or negative social control of a kind that violates children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **Source:** Norwegian Supreme Court, judgment HR-2026-1009-A; HRWF translation of the official summary
- **URL:** <https://hrwf.eu/norway-the-supreme-court-dismisses-all-accusations-against-jehovahs-witnesses/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Norwegian Supreme Court ruling

Claim: The Court split three-to-two on a separate ground — whether shunning constitutes undue pressure that violates members' right to leave — with the dissenting two judges specifically citing the impact of disfellowshipping on minors as part of their reasoning.

- **Source:** Norwegian Supreme Court, judgment HR-2026-1009-A; HRWF translation of the official summary
- **URL:** <https://hrwf.eu/norway-the-supreme-court-dismisses-all-accusations-against-jehovahs-witnesses/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Norwegian Supreme Court ruling

SECTION 7: The Track Record on Children's Welfare

Claim: Danish child psychologist Ulla Dyrlov, a specialist in clinical child psychology, has publicly characterized Watchtower's Caleb-and-Sophia animated content as "indoctrination" that creates "anxiety, guilt, and shame" in children.

- **Source:** AvoidJW reporting on October 2024 Danish coverage; Dyrlov published statements via Danish-language press
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/denmark-tension-rises-between-jehovahs-witnesses-and-danish-ministry-of-church-affairs/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established advocacy site reporting on credentialed-psychologist published statements
- **Note:** Ulla Dyrlov is a specialist i klinisk børnepsykologi (specialist in clinical child psychology) with 25+ years of experience and is a regular contributor to Danish national press.

Claim: The handling of child sexual abuse by Jehovah’s Witnesses has been the subject of the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Case Study 29).

- **Source:** Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 29, Final Report, Commonwealth of Australia
- **URL:** <https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/case-studies/case-study-29-jehovahs-witnesses>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Australian Royal Commission official record

Claim: In the 2012 case *Conti v. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York* in Alameda County, California, a jury returned a verdict against Watchtower for negligent supervision of a known child abuser; the initial judgment included approximately \$28 million in punitive damages.

- **Source:** *Conti v. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, et al.*, Superior Court of Alameda County, California, jury verdict June 14, 2012
- **URL:** <https://www.courthousenews.com/jehovahs-witnesses-hit-with-21-million-jury-verdict-in-child-sex-abuse-case/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Court verdict (with secondary reporting cited)

Claim: On November 12, 2025, attorneys filed *Souza v. Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, et al.* in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, naming Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, and the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses as defendants and seeking not less than one hundred million dollars in damages.

- **Source:** *Souza v. Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, et al.*, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, complaint filed November 12, 2025
- **URL:** <https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/souza-v-watch-tower/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Federal court filing

Claim: Philip Brumley, General Counsel for Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania and head of Watchtower’s legal department in Patterson, New York, was sanctioned \$154,448.11 under 28 U.S.C. § 1927 by the United States District Court for the District of Montana for submitting a June 22, 2020 affidavit that the court found constituted an “intentional and sustained effort to deceive the court” in two child sexual abuse cases — *Caekaert and Mapley v. Watch Tower* and *Rowland and Shulze v. Watch Tower*. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the sanctions on July 7, 2025, in *Rowland v. Watch Tower*, No. 24-5196.

- **Source:** *Rowland v. Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of New York, et al.*, No. 24-5196, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, July 7, 2025; underlying U.S. District Court for the District of Montana sanctions order, August 23, 2022
- **URL:** <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/ca9/24-5196/24-5196-2025-07-07.html>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Federal appellate court ruling affirming federal district court sanctions order
- **Note:** Additional documentation and context available at <https://avoidjw.org/news/philip-brumley-sustained-effort-to-deceive/>.

Claim: *Shepherd the Flock of God*, the Watchtower internal manual for elders, has been issued in multiple revised editions (including 2010, 2012, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2023), with documented changes between editions in passages governing the handling of child sexual abuse and judicial procedure.

- **Source:** AvoidJW analysis of *Shepherd the Flock of God* editions and changes
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/shepherd-flock-of-god-elders-rulebook-manual-doctrine/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established advocacy site analysis based on direct comparison of editions

SECTION 8: The Denmark Facility and the Ministry Investigation

Claim: On the same May 8, 2026 broadcast, the Governing Body announced the purchase of a property in Denmark to be used as a Bible educational center — a School for Kingdom Evangelizers facility with six classrooms and 134 rooms, with capacity for over 800 students per year. The purchase was finalized on April 14, 2021. Classes are scheduled to begin later this year.

- **Source:** 2026 Governing Body Update #3, Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania
- **URL:** <https://www.jw.org/en/news/region/global/2026-Governing-Body-Update-3/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower's own published broadcast announcement

Claim: The Danish Ministry of Church Affairs investigation into Jehovah's Witnesses, opened September 25, 2024, closed in late 2025 in Watchtower's favor. The Ministry's closure noted that allegations regarding cartoons for children, exclusion of members, and family estrangement, while controversial, are not crimes under Danish law — language that explicitly leaves the door open for future complaints under different legal frameworks.

- **Source:** AvoidJW reporting on the Danish Ministry of Church Affairs investigation closure
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/denmark-tension-rises-between-jehovahs-witnesses-and-danish-ministry-of-church-affairs/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established advocacy site reporting on official Danish Ministry action

Claim: On November 25, 2025, the Danish Press Council formally criticized *Ekstra Bladet* for inaccurate reporting and ordered the tabloid to publish corrections, including front-page placement.

- **Source:** Danish Press Council (Pressenævnet) ruling on *Ekstra Bladet*, AvoidJW reporting
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/news/denmark-tension-rises-between-jehovahs-witnesses-and-danish-ministry-of-church-affairs/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established advocacy site reporting on Danish Press Council ruling

SECTION 9: Editorial Commentary

Claim: The interpretation that the May 8, 2026 broadcast functions as legal-defense communication, rather than as a child-protection measure, is editorial analysis based on the disclosed evidence in this video — including the timing of the broadcast relative to French, Swedish, and Norwegian regulatory developments; the engineered cultural barriers to publicly opting out at a regional convention; and the absence of substantive change to underlying Watchtower policies on children's content, abuse reporting, or shunning.

- **Source:** Creator analysis / editorial opinion — not a factual claim requiring external verification
- **Verification:** Editorial analysis based on the disclosed primary and secondary sources cataloged in this document

Claim: The characterization of Watchtower's broader pattern — keeping the system, moving the blame, and broadcasting the move — is editorial analysis drawing on the documented institutional record covered across this channel and on the specific sources cataloged in this document.

- **Source:** Creator analysis / editorial opinion — not a factual claim requiring external verification
- **Verification:** Editorial analysis based on the disclosed primary and secondary sources cataloged in this document

SECTION 10: Additional Supporting Sources

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General — Investigation into Jehovah’s Witnesses Child Sexual Abuse Records

- **Source:** Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General
- **URL:** <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — State attorney-general office
- **Contains:** Public statements and investigative actions related to Jehovah’s Witnesses child sexual abuse records, providing institutional context for the broader US litigation environment referenced in the video.

AvoidJW — Quiet Removal of 2023 Convention Shunning Videos (September 2025)

- **Source:** AvoidJW
- **URL:** <https://avoidjw.org/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established advocacy site documentation
- **Contains:** Documentation of Watchtower’s September 2025 quiet removal of 2023 “Exercise Patience” convention videos depicting shunning practices, captured by AvoidJW prior to deletion. Removal coincided with Norway, Sweden, and Denmark scrutiny.

Bitter Winter — Sweden Coverage Series

- **Source:** Bitter Winter (CESNUR — Center for Studies on New Religions)
- **URL:** <https://bitterwinter.org/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established religious-freedom investigative outlet
- **Contains:** Detailed reporting on Swedish state subsidies law, the SST denial of Jehovah’s Witnesses application, and the political context surrounding Act 2024:487.

Human Rights Without Frontiers — Norway and Sweden Reporting

- **Source:** Human Rights Without Frontiers International (HRWF)
- **URL:** <https://hrwf.eu/>
- **Verification:** SECONDARY — Established religious-freedom monitoring organization
- **Contains:** Translation of Norwegian Supreme Court official summary of HR-2026-1009-A; OSCE statement on Swedish state discrimination including Reichel’s October 2, 2025 podcast statements.

Légifrance — Official Repository of French Legislation

- **Source:** République Française, Direction de l’information légale et administrative
- **URL:** <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official French government legal database
- **Contains:** Full text of Loi n° 2024-420, Article 223-15-3 of the French Penal Code, and related procedural articles.

Conseil constitutionnel — French Constitutional Council Official Decisions

- **Source:** Conseil constitutionnel, République Française
- **URL:** <https://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Official French Constitutional Council
- **Contains:** Full text of Decision 2024-865 DC of May 7, 2024 upholding Loi n° 2024-420.

Watchtower Online Library (WOL)

- **Source:** Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania
- **URL:** <https://wol.jw.org/>
- **Verification:** PRIMARY — Watchtower’s own searchable archive of its publications
- **Contains:** Full text of cited *Awake!* and *Watchtower* articles referenced in this video, available for direct reader verification.