

[This document was obtained from court file. King County, Washington,  
King County Superior Court, in the matter of: Crowley vs. Community  
Chapel, Case NO. 93-2-25996-4]

**OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Suite 1212  
June 13, 1986

Community Chapel and Bible  
Training Center  
18635 8<sup>th</sup>. Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98148

Dear Reverend Barnett:

We are writing this letter to express our concerns about the possible involvement of children in sexually inappropriate behavior with adult members of your church. It is not our intention to interfere with legitimate religious practices. However, there are certain circumstances defined by our state's laws when certain acts become criminal in nature and/or constitute child abuse or neglect. Whenever such circumstances occur, our agencies are required to be informed and are authorized to take appropriate action for the protection of the child.

RCW 26.44.020(12) defines child abuse or neglect as:  
. . .the injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation  
or negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child  
by any person under circumstances which indicate  
that the child's health, welfare and safety is  
harmed thereby.

Our State law, RCW 26.44, also requires certain persons to report within 48 hours any incidences of child abuse or neglect. These mandated reporters include professional school personnel, practitioners, social workers and psychologists. Reports must be made to the proper law enforcement agency or to the Department of Social and Health Services. Failure to report by a person required to do so can subject the person to criminal charges.

In addition, there are several laws which define acts constituting crimes. For example, RCW 9A.44.100 provides:

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Ken Eikenberry Attorney General  
Dexter Horton Building, Seattle, Washington 98104-1749

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(1) A person is guilty of indecent liberties when he knowingly causes another person not his spouse to have sexual contact with another:

- (a) By forcible compulsion; or
- (b) When the other person is less than fourteen years of age; or
- (c) When the person is less than sixteen years of age and the perpetrator is more than forty-eight months older than the person and is in a position of authority over the person. . .

Indecent liberties is a class B felony. There are a wide range of other crimes regarding inappropriate sexual contact, including statutory rape and communication with a minor for immoral purposes.

As you know, our agencies have been investigating allegations of child sexual abuse involving members of the church. We do not believe that you would condone such behavior. Thus, we request your cooperation and assistance in our investigation. To this end, we wish to extend an invitation to you and other interested members of your congregation to meet with us to discuss our mutual concerns and answer any questions you may have. Please contact Noella Hashimoto or Alzada Dodge of the Attorney General's Office at 464-7045 to arrange for a convenient time and place to meet.

Sincerely,  
(Signed)  
NOELLA HASHIMOTO  
Assistant Attorney General

SGT. Howard Reynolds  
King County Police  
Department

WINIFRED WIATRAK  
Center 4 Administration  
Department of Social and  
Health Services  
Division of Children and Family  
Services

REBECCA J. ROE  
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
King County Prosecutors Office