



WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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October 2, 2012

TO ALL CIRCUIT OVERSEERS

Re: Child abuse

Dear Brothers:

As outlined in paragraph 11 of the October 1, 2012, letter to all bodies of elders, the elders will contact you when handling judicial cases involving child sexual abuse. When you are contacted, please identify the brother on the special committee list who is best qualified to serve as chairman of the judicial committee. He will serve on the committee along with two elders from the local congregation. This provision will enable the two local elders to gain experience by observing how the experienced elder handles matters. Also, the two local elders will be able to shepherd the victim, the victim's family, the family of the accused, and any others who require assistance.

When preparing the list of brothers qualified to serve on special committees, please make a notation next to the names of any brothers whom you feel are qualified to handle judicial cases involving child abuse. (*tg* chap. 23 par. 4) This should prove helpful to you if you are contacted by the body of elders for assistance. In due course, *Traveling Overseer Guidelines* will be updated to reflect this adjusted procedure.

We send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

Watchtower B. & J. Society
OF AUSTRALIA

cc: District overseers