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Official Decision on the case of Mayapur Candra dasa

This judgment, decided on August 10, 2000, was rendered in accordance with the guidelines for adjudicating cases of alleged child abuse established by the ISKCON Child Protection Task Force Report and ratified by the ISKCON Governing Body Commission. This judgment is the Official Decision of the ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection (ICOCP) on the case of child abuse allegedly perpetrated by Mayapur Candra dasa, who served as temple president in Jagannatha Puri from 1991 through 1996. Mayapur Candra is in his 50s, he is approximately 5' 9" tall, 160 pounds, with greying hair and glasses. He is initiated by Jayapataka Maharaja.

This decision defines the parameters of the relationship of Mayapur Candra dasa with ISKCON. The ICOCP advises child abuse victims, their parents, and all members of the ISKCON organization to report allegations of child abuse to governmental social service and law enforcement authorities. Also, the ICOCP advises all members of ISKCON to learn and follow their local laws regarding child abuse and mandated reporting of child abuse.

This panel has determined, based on testimony that is in the case file of this case, that Mayapur Candra dasa caressed the legs of a 12 year old girl, while the girl was at his home in Jagannatha Puri. The girl was a friend of Mayapur Candra's daughter. According to the Task Force Report this transgression constitutes a precursor to child sexual abuse.

Based on the evidence described above, the Official Decision of this adjudicatory panel is as follows:

As a lifetime restriction, Mayapur Candra must not hold positions of leadership in ISKCON or with an organization affiliated with ISKCON. Also, he must not have service connected with children, nor can he reside on ISKCON property, or on the property of an organization that is affiliated with ISKCON. Additionally, if he visits ISKCON property or the property of an organization affiliated with ISKCON, and the devotee, or the parents of the devotee, whom he mistreated when she was a child is present, he must leave the property unless the devotee and her parents agree, without being coerced, that he can stay.

In order for Mayapur Candra to be permitted to give classes or lead kirtanas at an ISKCON temple, or on the premises of an ISKCON-affiliated organization, or at an ISKCON-related function, he must undergo a psychological assessment and comply with the recommendations for ongoing therapy contained in that evaluation. The evaluation and therapy must be conducted by a mental health professional that is pre-approved by the ICOCP. Also, he must write a letter of genuine apology to the devotee whom he transgressed against. Additionally, Mayapur Candra dasa must contribute at least $2,000 to the grant program of either Children of Krishna or the Child Protection Office. This money will be given to the young woman whom he offended when

she was a child. If she does not accept the funds, then the money will be given to another Vaisnava who suffered mistreatment as a child. If he complies with these directives for evaluation, therapy, a $2,000 contribution, and an apology letter, then after two years from the date of this decision the ICOCP will consider lifting his ban on giving class and leading kirtana.

If he breaks any of these injunctions, then he can have no association with ISKCON temples until his case is reviewed by the CPO.

These judgments constitute the minimum restrictions that an ISKCON organization may place on Mayapur Candra dasa. Any specific ISKCON organization may choose to invoke more stringent restrictions.

According to the ISKCON Child Protection Task Force Report, Section 5, in cases where an allegation(s) of child abuse are determined to be valid, the accused may appeal the Official Decision to the GBC Executive Committee and the ISKCON Minister of Justice within one month from receiving the Official Decision. The Official Decision described in this document is effective immediately, and the perpetrator must abide by its guidelines during the appeal process, should he choose to appeal this decision.

While this Official Decision has delineated various restrictions and conditions, the panel members realize that engagement in devotional service to Sri Krsna is essential for purification. Though it is not the function of this panel to determine or suggest the type of devotional service that Mayapur Candra dasa should perform, we want to mention that, within the restrictions described herein, there are countless ways in which Mayapur Candra dasa may serve Srila Prabhupada's mission, and we encourage him to do so. Also, we wish to state that the directives described in this document, such as writing an apology letter and donating for the betterment of the children of Srila Prabhupada's movement, are also forms of bhakti-yoga.

Judges serving on this case were: Gandharvika dasi, Tamal Vrksa dasa, and Srikama dasi. The Case Manager for this case was Dhira Govinda dasa. The Director of the ICOCP at the time of this Official Decision was Dhira Govinda dasa.