Official Decision on the Case of Krpa Kara Dasa

This judgment, decided on October 30, 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 Association for the Protection of Vaisnava Children (APVC) on the child abuse case of Krpa Kara dasa (Keith Foley). Krpa Kara dasa was initiated by Srila Prabhupada and in the 1980s he was the temple president in Adelaide, Australia.

This decision defines the parameters of the relationship of Krpa Kara dasa with ISKCON. The APVC 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 APVC advises all members of ISKCON to learn and follow their local laws regarding child abuse and mandated reporting of child abuse.

There are accusations of child sexual abuse allegedly committed by Krpa Kara dasa against two teenage girls. The ISKCON Child Protection Task Force Report defines child sexual abuse as:

"An act of commission (perpetration) where a child is coerced, induced, persuaded, enticed, seduced, or entrapped into sexual acts with another person. The coercion can be either physical or verbal...The abuser uses his/her position of authority or power (size, age, social position, cognitive differential) to exert control over the victim.

a) Forms of sexual abuse include:

(1) voyeurism ("Peeping Tom") (2) exhibitionism (flashing) (3) taking pornographic pictures of the child (4) having the child watch while the perpetrator masturbates (5) forced masturbation (6) kissing (7) fondling (8) digital/object penetration of vagina and/or anus (9) oral sex (10) sodomy (11) intercourse"

In investigating this case the APVC received written statements from one of the alleged victims, from the mother of that alleged victim, from Krpa Kara dasa, and from Krpa Kara dasa's wife. Krpa Kara dasa was given full opportunity to respond to all accusations against him.

The APVC has received written, signed testimony from a Vaisnavi (claimant 1) who writes "I was sexually abused for a period of fourteen months from March 1986 until May 1987 by Krpa-kara dasa (Keith Foley)...He was acting as temple president of Adelaide, Australia at the time." This written testimony is dated Novemeber 12, 1997, when the claimant was 25 years old, meaning that she was 13-15 years old at the time of the abusive incidents perpetrated by Krpa-kara. In his statement Krpa Kara dasa admits that he sexually assaulted this victim and that he was convicted for this sexual assault in the Australian court system. For this crime he received a suspended sentence.

Krpa Kara dasa admitted that he sexually fondled [redacted] (claimant 2). His wife's statement confirms this, and states that the incidents with [redacted] occurred when she was about 7 or 8 years old, [redacted]

Based on the evidence described above, this panel has determined that Krpa Kara dasa should have no connection with ISKCON for at least four years from today. This means that he can perform no service for ISKCON or an ISKCON-affiliated organization, nor can he enter the property of ISKCON or an ISKCON-affiliated organization. After October 30, 2004, he may associate with the ISKCON society on the following conditions:

1) He must pay restitution to claimant 1. Krpa Kara dasa wrote to the APVC that the judge ordered him to pay $10,000 each to his sexual abuse victim and to her mother, for a total of $20,000. Krpa Kara wrote to the APVC that he paid this amount. Documentation of this payment, in the form of a letter from claimaint 1 or a receipt from a financial institution, will constitute fulfillment of this condition. If this $20,000 was never actually paid, then Krpa Kara dasa must pay restitution to claimant 1 in the amount of at least $5,000, and any amount that he has already paid to her will count towards the fulfillment of this condition.

2) Krpa Kara dasa must write a letter of apology to [redacted] and to her mother. Krpa Kara has referred to apologies that he sent to [redacted] and to her mother. Documentation of this will fulfill the requirement of this condition. If such documentation is not available then Krpa Kara must write additional apology letters to [redacted] and to her mother. In these letters Krpa Kara must acknowledge his wrongdoing and take full responsibility for it. Additionally, the APVC asks that Krpa Kara write a letter, to be sent to the APVC, requesting that no one connected with Srila Prabhupada's movement mistreats claimant 1 or her mother due to the testimonies that they have given regarding the child sexual abuse that he perpetrated.

3) Krpa Kara dasa must undergo a psychological evaluation and ongoing mental health therapy by a mental health professional approved by the APVC. Krpa Kara has stated to the APVC that he has regularly attended counseling with several certified counselors over the years, though at present he doesn't attend counseling. Documentation of this prior therapy can fulfill this condition. If the therapists no longer have records of the sessions with Krpa Kara, then Krpa Kara should provide the contact information of his therapists to the APVC, and the APVC will contact them. Krpa Kara also stated that he has arranged for extensive counseling for claimant 2.

If Krpa Kara fulfills the three conditions above, then after October 30, 2004, he may associate with the ISKCON organization under the following conditions:

4) Krpa Kara cannot reside overnight on ISKCON property.

5) Krpa Kara cannot lead kirtanas or give class at an ISKCON temple or at an ISKCON function, or at the function of an organization affiliated with ISKCON.

7) Krpa Kara must show this document to the temple president or facility manager of any ISKCON temple or project that he visits more than twice per year, and obtain a signed statement that the president or manager has read this decision. Krpa Kara must send the signed copy of the decision to APVC.

8) Krpa Kara is not permitted to hold any positions in the ISKCON organization, or in any organization affiliated with ISKCON.

If Krpa Kara complies with the conditions described above, and if his behavior has shown no signs of further child sexual abuse, then as of October 30, 2010, he may apply to the APVC to have restrictions 4-8 lifted.

The following restrictions are lifetime restrictions on Krpa Kara dasa:

9) Krpa Kara cannot perform any service for ISKCON that involves association with children (A child is defined as a person under 18 years of age).

10) Krpa Kara cannot visit ISKCON property, or the property of an organization affiliated with ISKCON, or attend an ISKCON or ISKCON-affiliated function, if [redacted] or her family members are present, unless, uncoerced and without manipulation, they give their consent.

11) If Krpa Kara violates any of the dictates of this Official Decision, then he can have no association with ISKCON temples or projects until his case is reviewed by the APVC. This ban means that he cannot enter ISKCON property or the property of any organization affiliated with ISKCON.

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

The APVC strongly recommends that those who were in responsible positions as Krpa Kara's authorities at the time of Krpa Kara's transgressions [redacted] make personal apologies to [redacted]

The APVC recognizes that [redacted] suffered greatly when she was a child under the care of ISKCON as a result of sexual abuse perpetrated by Krpa Kara dasa. This panel hopes that this Official Decision will serve to satisfy [redacted] and her family members that the misdeeds of Krpa Kara dasa have been dealt with appropriately, albeit late, by the ISKCON organization.