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CONFIDENTIAL

Official Decision on the case of Laxmimoni devi dasi. DOB: 4th December 1948

This decision concluded on Friday 27th April 2018, was rendered in accordance with the guidelines for arbitrating cases of alleged child abuse established by the ISKCON Child Protection Policy and Operational Guidelines, ('Guidelines') ratified by the ISKCON Governing Body Commission June of 2012 and consequent 2018 amendment. This finding is the Official Decision of the ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection (ICOCP) in the case of Laxmimoni dd. For purposes of identification, Laxmimoni dd, aka Linda Hickey, is an initiated disciple of HDG AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, currently living in Alachua.

This decision defines the parameters of the relationship of Laxmimoni dd (referred to as LM) with ISKCON. The ICOCP advises child abuse victims, their parents, and all members of the ISKCON to report allegations of child abuse to governmental social service/ 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.

There are allegations of historical emotional, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse against 10 girls. According to the ISKCON Child Protection Policy and Operational Guidelines, definitions of the above listed types of abuse are as follows:

EMOTIONAL ABUSE - failure to provide a climate that emotionally nourishes the child.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE - the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and lasting adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It is a repeated pattern of behavior that conveys to the child that they are worthless, flawed, unwanted, unloved, or only of value to meet another person's needs. This verbal battering seriously erodes and damages the child's self esteem and sense of

worth as a person.

PHYSICAL ABUSE - an act of commission (perpetration) by the parent or caretaker where the child is physically injured.

SEXUAL ABUSE - when perpetrators (male or female) use a child to meet their own sexual needs. It is an act of commission (perpetration) where a child is coerced, induced, persuaded, enticed, seduced, or entrapped into sexual acts with another person. The abuser uses his/her position of authority or power (size, age, social position, cognitive differential) to exert control over and exploit the victim. Forms of sexual abuse include but are not limited to:
Exhibitionism (flashing) and having the child watch while the perpetrator masturbates.

For details on forms of abuse, please refer to pages 23-26 of the ISKCON Child Protection Policies and Operational Guidelines manual.

Evidence:

The ICOCP received 10 statements from victims/witnesses regarding historical child abuse allegations against LM. The victims were all female.

At the time of the alleged incidents, LM was an ashram teacher in the gurukula.

This review panel has considered all the information at its disposal and has come to the following decision based on:

1. The nature and extent of the acts;
2. The number of victims;
3. Repeated acts of abuse on different occasions;
4. LM's lack of acceptance of the allegations;
5. The impact the abuse, and LM's lack of acknowledgement of the abuse, has had on the victims;
6. The circumstances at the time that LM was asked to run the gurukula, ie. the lack of support, finances, and resources;
7. LM's personal circumstances of being abandoned by her husband, the injury her son sustained, and the impact this had on LM;

8. LM's age, and service to Srila Prabhupada over the years.

Conclusion:

Based on the evidence presented, the Review Panel found it **more likely than not that LM is responsible** for child negligence, as well as emotional, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse. This is an ecclesiastic decision that defines the relationship between LM and ISKCON.

While we acknowledge that the situation LM was in whilst running the gurukula was very difficult, we feel that these circumstances do not mitigate the abuse she inflicted on the girls.

Requirements:

1. LM must write individual letters of apology to all the victims. It should be sent to the CPO for delivery to the individuals at an appropriate time. LM should not contact the victims directly, or post any apologies/acknowledgements on any noticeboards/public forums.

Restrictions:

The following are restrictions placed upon LM for a period for 10 years:

1. LM must show this document to the Temple President of any temple she visits, or the manager of any ISKCON project or school that she visits, and obtain a signed statement that the president or manager has read this decision. LM shall send the signed copy of the decision to the ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection. If a new temple president or manager of an ISKCON project or school assumes the position, then LM is responsible to have the new administrator read and sign this document, and then to resubmit the document to the Child Protection Office.
2. LM should not be allowed to stay overnight or reside at any ISKCON centre or facility affiliated with ISKCON.
    a. However, taking LM's age and ashram into consideration, we have made an exception to allow her to reside in two temples, in either USA or Canada, of her choosing. She should notify the CPO Director of which temples she intends to reside in.



b. As the safest place for women to stay in Mayapur, is on the temple grounds, we have also made an exception to allow her to reside overnight on ISKCON property in Mayapur whilst she is visiting there.
c. One final exception is that she is permitted to spend a maximum of one night, each way, in the Delhi temple, whilst travelling between the airport and Vrindavana. This is also for her safety, so that she does not have to travel to Vrindavana during night time.

3. LM may not hold any position of leadership or management within ISKCON. This includes sitting on any committees or accepting any high profile/public/advisory positions.
4. LM may not give class or lead kirtana/harinama at any ISKCON temple or project. This includes any public or private classes/lectures/kirtans, ie.no teaching of any kind.
5. LM may not perform brahminical services/public worship such as, offering arati, offering a garland to Srila Prabhupada, etc.

The following are lifetime restrictions placed upon LM:

1. As a lifetime restriction LM shall not have service involving children in any ISKCON temple, school or project. Children are defined as anyone under 18 years of age.
2. LM may not be present if victims or their family members are present at an ISKCON centre or function if the victims or their family members object to her presence there.

The lifting of these sanctions is subject to full compliance of the above requirements and restrictions.

Any violation of the above may result in continuation of sanctions, dependent on the determination of the ICOCP Director.

Standard CPO Policies

Restriction Policy: The decision of the panel constitutes the **minimum** restrictions that an ISKCON organization must enforce. Any specific ISKCON centre may choose to enforce restrictions that are more stringent. It is expected that all ISKCON entities will carefully consider these decisions of the CPO before imposing more stringent limitations, as the constraints prescribed herein are deemed sufficient.

Appeals: According to the 'Guidelines', in cases where allegations are determined to be valid, the Official Decision may be appealed to the Child Protection Office within 60 days of receipt of the decision. It must be submitted in writing to the CPO Director. The only two principles that an appeal may be accepted are 1) if procedures in the original review prevented a fair and impartial hearing, or 2) if there is new and compelling additional evidence. The official decision described in this document is effective immediately. Should s/he choose to appeal this decision the individual named must abide by the original decision during the appeal process.

Note: Write if, when, where this case was reported to law enforcement and what the outcome was.

The Review Panel Members in this case were:

Chandravali dd 27th April 2018

Daksina dd 27th April 2018

Jayasacisuta 27th April 2018

The Case Manager was Gandharvika dd

The Director of the ICOCP was Kamalesh Krishna das