



# WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

January 21, 2010

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Qualifications of appointed persons in conjunction with disfellowshipped relatives

Dear Brothers:

The Bible tells us that we are not to fellowship with a person who has been expelled from the congregation. (1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 John 9-11) Elders, ministerial servants, and regular pioneers should set an example in their dealings with disfellowshipped family members. (*lv* pp. 207-209) What responsibility does the body of elders have if a person in such an *appointed* position allows a disfellowshipped immediate family member to move into the home?

The body of elders should review the qualifications of any appointed person who permits such a situation. (*w88* 3/1 p. 24 par. 5; *w81* 9/15 p. 29 pars. 16-17) It may be that the disfellowshipped relative is physically or emotionally ill and unable to care for himself. Or dire circumstances may exist so that a failure to provide assistance might result in disastrous consequences and even bring reproach on the congregation. In such circumstances, the appointed person may have felt there was no other recourse than to allow the family member to move into the home. The attitude of the disfellowshipped relative should also be considered. Has he 'come to his senses'? (Luke 15:17-19) Has he abandoned his sinful course? Or is he still engaged in serious wrongdoing? In carefully considering these and other relevant factors, the elders may determine that the appointed person is still exemplary, holds the respect of the congregation, and qualifies to continue serving.

On the other hand, if the circumstances raise serious questions and the appointed person has lost the respect of the congregation, the elders may determine that it would be best for the appointed person to relinquish his privilege of service. As long as the unfavourable situation in the home exists, the person would no longer be used in any exemplary capacity. Since this may be disheartening to the individual, the elders should confirm their love for him and help him to appreciate that he is needed in the congregation. (*w90* 9/1 pp. 22-23 pars. 18-20) Of course, if the situation changes and the reason for the deletion no longer exists, it may be that the person will once again be able to enjoy privileges of service in the congregation.

Be assured of our prayers for Jehovah's continued blessing as you extend yourselves in behalf of the brotherhood. We send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Watch Tower B. & J. Society*  
OF BRITAIN

cc: Travelling overseers

PS to the secretary: This letter should be retained in the congregation permanent file of policy letters. You may wish to update the congregation copy of *Index to Letters—For Bodies of Elders* (S-22) at this time as well.