

# Darryl Doland Issues Guidelines for WA

## NID AK



**wingsfortruth2**

June 20

June 19, 2024

Dear WA, N ID & AK friends,

During the past year I've communicated with you regarding our responses to the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) crisis in our region. Today I would like to bring you up to date on some of the conclusions we have recently come to.

For the past several months, we have been in the process of developing a set of CSA/SA guidelines. An incredible amount of energy and heart has been poured into this project by a group of professional friends, which we are very thankful for. The further we went along, the more we sensed we were engaged in an unending struggle. If the guidelines are written strictly, they lack flexibility for individual cases; if the guidelines are written loosely, they have 'holes' in them. Our efforts to dissolve this tension have been unsuccessful. In the end, we chose to adopt a set of simple guidelines which were written for neighboring states and have been adapted to fit our region. I'm sending that document with this email. Even though this outcome is different than any of us had envisioned, I feel the journey that brought us here has been profitable and will continue to provide important insight in the difficult decisions that are still ahead of us.

It's important to emphasize that we will continue to vigilantly address CSA/SA issues. We will continue to seek professional counsel and collaborate with elders and others regarding decisions that need to be made. We, as workers, realize we are not qualified to make these decisions on our own.

We have really appreciated the help of the safety team during the past few months. Our change of direction on guidelines will result in a restructuring of the safety team also. We are not sure what that will look like, but will keep you informed of changes.

When FBI agents talked to us in January, they identified two things in our fellowship that have contributed to our poor handling of CSA cases in the past: 1) lack of education; and 2) resistance to reporting CSA cases to local authorities. We are giving these two key elements special attention as we go forward.

On a related note, the GRACE investigation that was taking place in Seattle has concluded. The investigation substantiated the allegation that was brought forward. This concludes our involvement with GRACE.

Personally, I have been inspired and humbled by Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 11:3, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity (sincere & pure devotion) that is in Christ." Although issues can become very complicated, we aim to maintain our single-hearted devotion to Christ.

I feel deeply grateful for all of you who have supported us with your prayers and expressions of care this past year. I hope the peace of God prevails in all our lives, and that His love can radiate through us to everyone in need.

Your brother,

Darryl

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