

INDEPENDENCE CONVENTION MOVED TO ERIE KS

Aug 9

From: Richard Gasser <Redacted@gmail.com>

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Subject: INDEPENDENCE CONVENTION MOVED TO ERIE KS

Dear Friends,

This past week we have received allegation of CSA by an elder in SE Kansas. The Victim was from MO. After reporting we learned that the Missouri Dept of Social Services children's division is not doing any investigation because the victim is now over 18 years old.

There is also a publicly known incident involving this elder and a minor that was previously investigated in another state years ago. No one to our knowledge has raised any concerns about that incident, however in light of the recent allegation we are taking steps to protect children.

We do believe victims and want to support them. We want all perpetrators who are guilty to admit what they have done, repent, and be restored spiritually. We believe in this hope of their complete spiritual restoration, by the Grace and power of God, but concerning their involvement in our fellowship we will prioritize the safety of children. Since Friday the elder has not been in any funerals or fellowship meetings. We are not comfortable with perpetrators or alleged perpetrators being around anyone who is not aware of the situation.

If anyone has reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect, past or present please call the abuse hotline at 1-800-922-5330 in Kansas or 1-800-652-1999 in NE. And anyone who has been abused we encourage them to seek therapy as needed to become survivors. We are in the process of setting up a resource for those who would need help with funds for that in these states, and we will provide a number to call when we get that in place.

As a result of these allegations, the convention at Independence Kansas will be moved to the Neosho County Fairgrounds, in Erie, Kansas this year. There is a nice Air Conditioned building with plenty of room for any who wish to come. There are 35 camper hookups

and we have the whole facility rented from Tuesday September 26th until Sunday October 1st. There is a small motel called Land Of Ah's (Phone 620 244 5231), in Erie, right on the edge of the Fairgrounds, and larger hotels are available in Parsons, just 15 minutes south or Chanute 20 minutes to the west.

We would also like to mention that there is a meeting scheduled on Thursday August 10th at the Derby Library in Derby, KS from 6:30pm - 9:00pm to talk about the issues of CSA/SA in our fellowship. Due to the content of the meeting we would ask that no children attend. We plan to have a 1 hour presentation on Sexual Violence 101 and then some time for Q and A with two professional present to answer any questions. We will also have time for open discussion regarding your concerns. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Thank you,

The KS/NE Staff