

Jehovas vitner

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The Police Authority

Request for meeting

We are writing to you because we would like to request a meeting with the Police Authority following an incident in which one of the meeting places of Jehovah's Witnesses in Mandal was searched by the police, and where the police later questioned two elders (priests) requesting confidential information. The reason for the search and interrogation was that a former Jehovah's Witness had accused her former spouse of a crime. The police wanted to access the files of the local congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses in Mandal, and the search was approved by Kristiansand District Court.

The elders of Jehovah's Witnesses (priests, or pastors) sometimes receive confidential information from those who belong to the congregation. In a few cases, it may be necessary to make a brief note of this information for us to fulfil our legitimate religious purposes. Such a note is only available to the elders who received the information and is kept in a locked filing cabinet.

It is important for us to emphasize that we do not protect anyone who breaks the law, but at the same time it is also important that a believer can seek out our elders (priests) in confidence, that the content of the conversation is treated confidentially. We would like to request a meeting with the Police Authority to discuss how to find the balance between cooperating with the authorities while preserving the elders' (priests') duty of confidentiality and the religious community's legitimate religious purpose.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards

Jørgen Pedersen
Board Member

Dag-Erik Kristoffersen
Spokesman, Jehovah's Witnesses Scandinavia

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The branch office in Scandinavia