



CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

March 16, 2014

STATEMENT OF CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

Every individual in this country has the right to freedom of religion, expression and association. Contrary to the myths spread by a handful of anti-Scientologists, and fringe bloggers who would have you believe otherwise, the Church cannot and does not dictate or manage the family relationships of parishioners. In fact, the Church of Scientology encourages its members to have strong family relationships, regardless of whether those relatives are members or non-members.

Your story is slanted and its suggestions are false and offensive. Any accusations or inferences that the Church interfered in the private affairs of this family are untrue. The Church acted with compassion, responding to requests for assistance including helping their son deal with his drug addiction. At the end of the day, families make their own decisions and carry them out, which is what happened here. In this case, it is entirely up to the adult daughter with whom she chooses to associate. She has made her own decision not to see her mother and stepfather because they are openly hostile to her chosen faith and that of her husband and daughter. Beyond that, the Church of Scientology declines to debate the meaning or application of the voluntary practices of the religion, with the emphasis on *voluntary*. They are defined in detail on our website and in Scientology publications.

Meanwhile, the Church of Scientology is experiencing our greatest period of expansion ever, having opened 40 new ideal Scientology Churches in major cities and cultural centers around the world in recent years. Three weeks ago Scientologists from more than 30 European nations celebrated the dedication of our new Ideal Advanced Church of Scientology for Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark. Last week, 6,000 guests attended the rededication of our Ideal Advanced Churches in Los Angeles. And just this weekend, the Church celebrated the 103rd anniversary of L. Ron Hubbard's birthday with the highest number of Scientologists in history as can be seen at www.scientology.org.

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