

IN THE STATE COURT FOR
FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

JEANETTE SMITH, INDIVIDUALLY,
AND AS LEGAL GUARDIAN OF N.G.,
A MINOR,

PLAINTIFF,

VS.

WEST END FAMILY LIFE AND
COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.,
SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS, INC., JARED WATSON,
AND JOHN DOE DEFENDANTS "1-5"

DEFENDANTS.

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CASE NO: _____

JURY DEMAND REQUESTED

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

Plaintiff, Jeanette Smith, individually, and as Legal Guardian of N.G., a Minor, hereby files the following Complaint for compensatory and punitive damages as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1.

This case involves multiple rapes, sexual assaults, and batteries of a minor child by an adult male, while at a church summer camp (referenced herein as the "Bible Camp" or "Camp"). Given the tragic and gruesome nature of this case, Plaintiff N.G., a Minor, is identified in this Complaint only by her initials to prevent public disclosure of her name. Plaintiffs' counsel disclosed minor N.G.'s full name to Defendants pre-suit and identified same to the Court upon this filing.

PARTIES

2.

Plaintiff Jeanette Smith (hereinafter “Plaintiff Smith”) is the lawful guardian of N.G., a Minor (hereinafter “Plaintiff Minor” or “N.G.”, and collectively, “Plaintiffs”). At all material times herein, Plaintiff Smith was and is a citizen and resident of the State of Georgia, and the caregiver of Plaintiff Minor. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a redacted version of the guardianship papers confirming Plaintiff Smith’s status with Plaintiff Minor.

3.

Defendant, West End Family Life and Community Center, Inc. (hereinafter “WEFLCC”) is an incorporated entity authorized to transact business in the State of Georgia with its principal place of business at 1191 Donnelly Ave, Atlanta, Georgia 30310. WEFLCC can be served through its registered agent: Marcellus Howard, 1191 Donnelly Ave, Atlanta, GA 30310.

4.

Defendant, South Atlantic Conference Association of Seventh-Day Adventists (hereinafter “SACA”) is an incorporated entity authorized to transact business in the State of Georgia with its principal place of business at 3978 Memorial Drive, NE, Decatur, GA 30350. SACA can be served through its registered agent: Wendell K. Willard, 100 Galleria Pkwy, Suite 1600, Atlanta, GA 30339.

5.

Defendant Jared Watson (hereinafter “Defendant Watson” or “Watson”) is an individual residing at 136 Harbour Lake Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30215. Watson is currently an inmate at Fulton County Jail and may be served at 901 Rice Street Northwest, Atlanta, GA 30318.

6.

John Doe Defendants “1-5” are those persons, employees, corporations or other legal entities who were involved in the ownership, occupation, operation, management, leasing, staffing, training, support, oversight, supervision, security, safety and/or control of WEFLCC and/or SACA and the Bible Camp on the dates at issue; those persons, employees, corporations or other legal entities who hired, employed, assigned, controlled, supervised and/or trained the persons responsible for providing operations, management, leasing, staffing, training, support, oversight, supervision, security, safety and/or control of WEFLCC and/or SACA and the Bible Camp; those persons, employees, corporations or other legal entities whose negligence, gross negligence, wantonness or other conduct; those persons, employees, corporations or other legal entities as outlined above whose actions and/or inactions contributed to the injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiffs; those persons, employees, corporations or other legal entities who combined and concurred with that of the Defendants, who are responsible for WEFLCC and/or SACA and the Bible Camp, and caused severe injuries and damages to Plaintiffs.

7.

The Plaintiffs aver that the identities of the John Doe Defendants are otherwise unknown to Plaintiffs at this time; or if their names are known to Plaintiffs, their identities as proper party defendants are not known to the Plaintiffs at this time, and their true names will be substituted by amendment once ascertained.

8.

The John Doe Defendants know or should have known that, but for a lack of knowledge on the Plaintiffs’ part, or a mistake concerning the identity of the proper party names, the action would have been brought against each of the John Doe Defendants.

9.

All Defendants have been properly served.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10.

All Defendants are either residents of Fulton County, Georgia, transact business within Fulton County, Georgia, and/or engaged in wrongful acts giving rise to this lawsuit within Fulton County, Georgia, such that venue in Fulton County, Georgia for purposes of this lawsuit is proper pursuant to Georgia venue rules.

11.

Jurisdiction is proper as to all Defendants named in this matter.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

12.

The Plaintiffs reallege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if set forth here in full.

13.

At all times herein, Defendants WEFLCC and/or SACA owned and operated the Atlanta West End Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

14.

At all times herein, Defendants WEFLCC and/or SACA, and/or agents of WEFLCC and/or SACA, operated, supervised and/or oversaw the Bible Camp, which commenced at the Atlantic West End Seventh-Day Adventist Church's Family and Community Center, located at 1191 Donnelly Ave, Atlanta, Georgia 30310 during the summer of 2018.

15.

Upon information and belief, the Bible Camp lasted approximately two months from July through July 2018, of which the Defendants knew that minor children would be in attendance at the camp and otherwise captive to all of these Defendants.

16.

At all times relevant herein, Defendant Jared Watson was the employee and/or agent of Defendants SACA and/or WEFLCC and was selected by SACA and/or WEFLCC to work as a participant in, camp counselor for, or whom was otherwise continuously permitted to attend, the subject 2018 Bible Camp where minor children would be in attendance.

17.

At all times relevant herein, John Doe Defendants "1-5" were the employees and/or agents of Defendants WEFLCC and/or SACA and worked as agents, camp counselors, participants, and/or supervisors at the subject 2018 Bible Camp.

18.

Plaintiff Minor, a minor child under the age of thirteen (13) at all relevant times herein, was an invitee of and attended the Bible Camp at WEFLCC from June through July 2018.

19.

Approximately, if not precisely, for numerous weeks throughout June to July 2018 during the Bible Camp, Defendant Jared Watson repeatedly raped and sexually abused Plaintiff Minor in a classroom located inside Defendants WEFLCC and/or SACA's community center.

20.

Upon information and belief, WEFLCC, SACA and John Doe Defendants 1-5 knew or should have known about Defendant Watson's behavior and potential victimization of others,

including but not limited to that Defendant Watson engaged in suspicious, lewd, nefarious, exploitative, and/or dangerous behavior, including but not limited to the persistent rape and sexual abuse of Plaintiff Minor (and perhaps others) during the Defendants' Bible Camp hours.

21.

The Defendants knew or should have known that minor children attending its Bible Camp would be vulnerable to harm if Defendants failed to properly vet, hire, supervise and retain qualified counselors, and/or if they failed to oversee the Bible Camp where minors would be in attendance.

22.

Upon information and belief, additional victims of the Defendants have come forward and/or previously had reported similar incidents to law enforcement as a result of the Defendants' conduct.

23.

On March 12, 2021, Defendant Watson was arrested and has been charged by Fulton County District Attorney's Office with Aggravated Sodomy, Sexual Assault by persons with supervisory or disciplinary authority, Child Molestation, Sexual Battery of a Minor, Aggravated Child Molestation and Cruelty to Children in First Degree.

24.

Defendant Watson is currently held with no bond, in Fulton County Jail located at 901 Rice Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30318 and his booking number is 2103126.

25.

At all material times, Plaintiff Minor's victimization and catastrophic injuries occurred while the Plaintiff Minor was in the custody of the Defendants, and by the Defendants' agents,

while also in attendance at the Defendants' sponsored event, and/or while lawfully on one or more of the Defendants' property.

26.

As a consequence of the Defendants' independent and/or combined (and concurring) acts, Plaintiff Minor suffered fright; shock; severe pain and suffering; traumatizing and repeated sexual violence; mental anguish; medical expenses; property damage to her clothing; catastrophic injuries; and ultimately, life-long trauma as a consequence of the events giving rise to this lawsuit.

27.

Prior to filing this lawsuit, the Plaintiffs made efforts in seeking to resolve this matter pre-suit to avoid unnecessary litigation, heartache, expense, and mental trauma caused by bringing a lawsuit of this nature. Instead of accepting responsibility for the dangerous conditions they created, as well as the catastrophic injuries sustained by the Plaintiff because of their actions, these Defendants have intentionally chosen a stubbornly litigious and harassing litigation posture in bad faith and without substantial justification. The Plaintiffs therefore have and will continue to suffer additional damages, including litigation costs and expenses, attorney's fees, and additional pain and suffering, and damages Plaintiffs have suffered will accrue interest until the Defendants compensate Plaintiffs for their losses, with interest paid.

COUNT ONE

NEGLIGENCE AND/OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE

28.

Plaintiffs re-allege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if restated herein in their entirety.

29.

The Defendants were placed in a unique position of trust for parents and minor children given their religious status and position as pertaining to attendees of their camp, and their position of trust, status, and stature provided the Defendants full access to vulnerable minor children.

30.

The Defendants employed Defendant Jared Watson and John Doe Defendants “1-5” to work at the Bible Camp, and/or to consistently remain on the premises in close proximity to minor children, at all relevant times herein.

31.

Defendants WEFLCC, SACA and John Doe Defendants 1-5 had a duty to do the following:

- To warn Plaintiff Minor or the Plaintiff Minor’s guardians of any dangerous conditions or persons not readily apparent to Plaintiff Minor or her guardians;
- To properly vet all counselors who would be given access to vulnerable minor children;
- To make themselves knowledgeable of all persons, conditions and/or scenarios that could compromise the health, safety or welfare of minor children attending the summer camp, and to take action to guard against such situations occurring;
- To conduct reasonable inspections and perform continuing oversight and supervision of the program and agents in the program to guard the health, safety and welfare of minor children attending the summer camp;
- To properly train all employees with oversight responsibility of the program and agents in the program;
- To exercise reasonable care to protect Plaintiff Minor from reasonably foreseeable harm at the hands of others – including their own employees and agents;

- To protect and guard the health, safety, and welfare of minor children in their custody, control and/or under their supervision.
- To be knowledgeable of, and to remove, any persons with a history of exploitative and/or sexually improper conduct from being in close proximity to minor children;

32.

The Defendants had a duty to take all reasonable measures so as not to cause or inflict foreseeable harm on attendees.

33.

The Defendants, whether individually or concurrently, breached their duties owed to the Plaintiffs by:

- Failing to warn Plaintiff Minor or Plaintiff Minor's guardians of the dangerous conditions or persons who had access to minor children at the Bible Camp;
- Failing to properly vet and follow up on all counselors who would be given access to vulnerable minor children;
- Failing to make themselves knowledgeable as to all of the persons, conditions and/or scenarios that the Plaintiff Minor would be exposed to, and which could compromise the health, safety or welfare of Plaintiff Minor;
- Failing to conduct reasonable inspections and failing to perform continuing oversight and supervision of the program and agents in the program to guard the health, safety and welfare of Plaintiff Minor an attendee of the Bible Camp;
- Failing to train all employees with oversight responsibility of the program and agents in the program;

- Failing to exercise reasonable care to protect Plaintiff Minor from reasonably foreseeable harm caused by those with access to Plaintiff Minor, a vulnerable minor child – including their own employees and agents;
- Failing to take reasonable measures to prevent the foreseeable, traumatic victimization and harm of Plaintiff Minor;
- Failing to keep the summer camp reasonably safe for attendees;
- Failing to protect and guard the health, safety, and welfare of minor children in their custody, control and/or under their supervision.
- Failed to be knowledgeable of, and to remove, any persons with a history of exploitative and/or sexually inappropriate conduct from being in close proximity to minor children;

34.

As a direct and proximate result of the acts and/or omissions of the Defendants, as set forth above, the Defendants were negligent and/or grossly negligent, and as a result, Plaintiff Minor suffered traumatic, repeated, and now life-altering sexual violence; personal and physical injuries; past, present and future pain and suffering; past, present and future medical expenses; permanent injuries; severe and permanent mental anguish, disability and emotional distress; loss of the capacity for the enjoyment of life; incidental expenses; consequential damages to be proven at trial; and general damages.

35.

The Plaintiffs are entitled to bring this suit pursuant to Georgia law and seek all damages to which Plaintiffs may be entitled as a result of the horrific injuries sustained by Plaintiff Minor.

COUNT TWO

NEGLIGENCE PER SE

36.

Plaintiffs re-allege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if restated herein in their entirety.

37.

Defendant Jared Watson, and WEFLCC and SACA, by virtue of their relationship, actual and/or constructive knowledge, violated numerous Georgia statutes, rules and regulations. Specifically, Plaintiff Minor was sodomized; one or more of the Defendants engaged in sexual assault of a person in which he had a supervisory or disciplinary authority; one or more of the Defendants engaged in child molestation; one or more of the Defendants engaged in sexual battery of a minor; one or more of the Defendants engaged in aggravated child molestation; the Defendants failed to report the incident; the Defendants failed to have a nurse on site; the Defendants failed to properly train and supervise employees as required by statute; the Defendants either knowingly or with constructive knowledge, should have known, that they employed an employee and/or permitted an agent of theirs dangerous to minor children to be in close proximity with minor children; and the Defendants were cruel to a child in a most inhumane way. Therefore, the Defendants violated the following statutes, amongst others, and are negligent per se:

- (a) Aggravated Sodomy. O.C.G.A. § 16-6-2
- (b) Sexual Assault by persons with supervisory or disciplinary authority, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-5.1;
- (c) Child Molestation, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-4;
- (d) Sexual Battery of a Minor, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-22.1;

- (e) Aggravated Child Molestation, O.C.G.A. § 16-6-4(c);
- (f) Cruelty to Children in First Degree, O.C.G.A. § 16-5-70;
- (g) Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Rules and Regulations, O.C.G.A. § 591-1-1, et seq.

38.

As a minor child, Plaintiff Minor falls within the class of persons which these statutes are intended to protect.

39.

The harm suffered by Plaintiff Minor is the harm that these statutes are intended to guard against.

40.

The Defendants' egregious and wanton conduct is the sole or concurring proximate cause of Plaintiff Minor's severe and permanent injuries.

41.

Furthermore, Defendants had a duty, as owners and/or occupiers of land, to exercise ordinary care in keeping the premises and approaches safe for invitees pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51-3-1.

42.

Defendants were negligent in failing to maintain, inspect, secure and patrol the premises at issue, thereby creating an unreasonable risk of injury to invitees, including Plaintiff Minor.

43.

Defendants knew of, or with the exercise of due care for the safety of its invitees should have known of the dangerous and hazardous conditions existing on the premises and that said

conditions were likely to result in the harm such as that suffered by Plaintiff Minor. As a result of Defendants' negligence and breaches of duties to keep the premises safe, Plaintiff Minor was injured.

44.

Defendants failed to take appropriate action to remedy or reduce the danger to their invitees, including Plaintiff Minor, and allowed the dangerous environment on the subject property to continue to exist.

45.

The harm suffered by Plaintiff Minor is the harm that this statute was intended to guard against.

46.

Defendants were and are negligent per se as a result of one or more violations of these statutes, which they either individually or concurrently violated, or caused to be violated through their conduct.

47.

As a direct and proximate result of these statutory breaches of duties by Defendants, Plaintiffs were injured.

48.

As a direct and proximate result of the acts and/or omissions of the Defendants, as set forth above, the Defendants violated the above-referenced rules, regulations, authority, and/or statutes, and as a result, Plaintiff Minor suffered traumatic, repeated, and now life-altering sexual violence; personal and physical injuries; past, present and future pain and suffering; past, present and future medical expenses; permanent injuries; severe and permanent mental anguish, disability and

emotional distress; loss of the capacity for the enjoyment of life; incidental expenses; consequential damages to be proven at trial; and general damages.

49.

Plaintiffs are entitled to bring this suit pursuant to Georgia law and seek all damages to which they may be entitled as a result of the horrific injuries sustained by Plaintiff Minor.

COUNT THREE

PREMISES LIABILITY

50.

Plaintiffs re-allege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if restated herein in their entirety.

51.

At all relevant times herein, the Defendants were those entities or persons who either owned, occupied and/or had supervising authority over the premises where the subject incident(s) described herein occurred.

52.

At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff Minor was lawfully in and on the Defendants' premises with the express and/or implied invitation of Defendants.

53.

At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff Minor's status on the property was such that she was a lawful invitee of the premises at the time that the subject incident(s) described herein occurred.

54.

The Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff Minor, as an invitee of the premises, to:

- Keep the premises in a reasonably safe condition;

- Institute reasonable measures necessary to protect invitees from criminal victimization on the premises;
- Institute reasonable measures necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of minor children on the premises;
- Institute reasonable measures necessary to protect minor children from foreseeable and continuing harm;
- Eject individuals from the premises capable of causing, or whom were causing, harm to invitees of the premises;
- Create measures, standards or guidelines reasonably sufficient to report, deter, monitor, or otherwise prevent victimization of invitees on the premises;
- Warn of any dangerous conditions, including the presence of violent individuals, of which it knew or should have known existed or could exist in the exercise of reasonable care;
- Conduct inspections to discover dangerous conditions, including vulnerabilities that threaten the health, safety and welfare of invitees, violent persons, or unsafe and/or dangerous conduct, existing on or around the premises where the subject incident(s) occurred.
- De-escalate reasonably foreseeable or growing violence that could lead to severe injury or death on or around the premises;
- Utilize security measures to ensure dangerous conditions capable of causing injury or death to persons from reasonably foreseeable injuries at the hands of others, would not escalate and/or flourish on the premises;
- Supervise all individuals whom would come onto the property and whom could come into contact with minor children so as not to create a dangerous condition on the premises;
- Supervise all individuals whom would provide care to mitigate and/or avoid injuries, and/or provide lifesaving treatment in the event a dangerous condition occurred on the premises and injured persons there; and/or
- Eject any and all individuals whom presented a dangerous condition to persons on the premises, including minor children.

55.

The Defendants, whether individually or concurrently, breached one or more of the duties owed to the Plaintiffs as referenced above.

56.

As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conduct and breaches of duty, as set forth above, the Defendants permitted a dangerous condition to exist and condition to exist which presented the risk of severe, catastrophic and permanent harm to attendees at the referenced event and subject premises.

57.

As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant' conduct and breaches of duty, as set forth above, Plaintiff Minor suffered traumatic, repeated, and now life-altering sexual violence; personal and physical injuries; past, present and future pain and suffering; past, present and future medical expenses; permanent injuries; severe and permanent mental anguish, disability and emotional distress; loss of the capacity for the enjoyment of life; incidental expenses; consequential damages to be proven at trial; and general damages.

58.

The Plaintiffs are entitled to bring this suit pursuant to Georgia law and seek all damages to which they may be entitled as a result of the horrific injuries sustained by Plaintiff Minor.

COUNT FOUR

NEGLIGENT HIRING, TRAINING, SUPERVISION, AND RETENTION

59.

Plaintiffs re-allege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if restated herein in their entirety.

60.

The WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants retained, employed and/or utilized Defendant Jared Watson at the premises in question to be a counselor at and/or a participant in the subject Bible Camp operation.

61.

The WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants retained and employed those persons responsible for the oversight, training, and supervision of Defendant Jared Watson.

62.

The WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the hiring of all persons who would be counselors, supervisors, and/or participants in the Bible Camp proceedings on the subject premises.

63.

It is reasonably foreseeable to WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants that failure to exercise reasonable care in the hiring of such individuals for such proceedings and whom will come in contact with minor children and/or vulnerable persons could cause foreseeable hazards to those minor children and/or vulnerable persons, including hazards capable of inflicting severe injury or death – such as molestation, rape, battery, trauma or other catastrophic injuries.

64.

Moreover, WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the training of individuals that it employs and/or utilizes for any proceedings that involve minor children and/or other vulnerable persons.

65.

It is reasonably foreseeable to WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants that failure to exercise reasonable care in the training of individuals employed and/or utilized for such proceedings and whom will come in contact with minor children and/or vulnerable persons could cause foreseeable hazards to those minor children and/or vulnerable persons, including hazards capable of inflicting severe injury or death – such as molestation, rape, battery, trauma or other catastrophic injuries.

66.

Further, WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the supervision, retention, oversight and/or management of the Bible Camp; of all

individuals that it employs and/or utilizes for any proceedings that involve minor children and/or other vulnerable persons; and/or as pertaining to all persons permitted to be on the premises whom will come in close contact with minor children.

67.

It is reasonably foreseeable to WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants that failure to exercise reasonable care in the supervision, retention, oversight and/or management of individuals employed and/or utilized for such proceedings and whom will come in contact with minor children and/or vulnerable persons could cause foreseeable hazards to those minor children and/or vulnerable persons, including hazards capable of inflicting severe injury or death – such as molestation, rape, battery, trauma or other catastrophic injuries.

68.

Defendants WEFLCC, SACA and/or the John Doe Defendants breached their duty to exercise reasonable care in the hiring of Defendant Jared Watson, as well as all persons assigned to supervise and/or monitor the Bible Camp program and/or counselors at the program.

69.

Defendants WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants breached their duty to exercise reasonable care in their training of Defendant Jared Watson. Further, these Defendants breached their duty to exercise reasonable care in the training of other employees and/or participants that worked at, or whom were charged with the hiring, oversight, supervision, and/or participation in, the Bible Camp program.

70.

Defendants WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants breached their duty to exercise reasonable care in the supervision, retention, oversight and/or management of individuals that it employed at or concerning the subject Bible Camp program, including Defendant Jared Watson.

71.

At all material times, Defendants WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants knew or should have known about Defendant Jared Watson's dangerous character, conduct, suspicious behavior, and/or likelihood to present significant hazards to minor children and/or vulnerable persons that attended the subject Bible Camp program.

72.

At all material times, Defendants WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants knew or should have known about the poor oversight, management, and/or supervision of the subject Bible Camp program, and the corresponding hazardous atmosphere it presented for minor children and/or vulnerable persons that attended the subject Bible Camp program.

73.

Defendants WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants were negligent in their hiring; training; and in their supervision; retention; oversight and/or management of the subject Bible Camp Program and those persons who participated in the Program, including Defendant Jared Watson.

74.

As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned Defendant' conduct and breaches of duty, as set forth above, Plaintiff Minor suffered traumatic, repeated, and now life-altering sexual violence; personal and physical injuries; past, present and future pain and suffering; past,

present and future medical expenses; permanent injuries; severe and permanent mental anguish, disability and emotional distress; loss of the capacity for the enjoyment of life; incidental expenses; consequential damages to be proven at trial; and general damages.

75.

The Plaintiffs are entitled to bring this suit pursuant to Georgia law and seek all damages to which they may be entitled as a result of the horrific injuries sustained by Plaintiff Minor.

COUNT FIVE

**NEGLIGENT, RECKLESS AND INTENTIONAL
INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

76.

Plaintiffs re-allege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if restated herein in their entirety.

77.

As described and at all times relevant herein, Plaintiff Minor was a lawful invitee of Defendants.

78.

Defendants owed Plaintiff Minor a duty to exercise due care to prevent the atmosphere, conditions (including Defendant Watson) and environment from manifesting to a point where Plaintiff Minor was violently and sexually assaulted over a two-month period at the subject Bible Camp.

79.

Defendants WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants knew or should have known that by their failure to exercise due care in the performance of owning, managing, operating, supervising, and/or maintaining the premises and/or in their performance of hiring, training,

supervising, retaining, overseeing and/or managing their employees and agents, including Defendant Jared Watson, that Defendants' actions and/or omissions could cause Plaintiff Minor to suffer severe and permanent injuries, and mental and emotional distress.

80.

Defendants' conduct was negligent, reckless and/or intentional, was extreme and outrageous and was a cause in fact and a proximate cause of Plaintiff Minor's severe and permanent physical, mental and emotional injuries and damages.

81.

As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned Defendants' conduct and breaches of duty, as set forth above, Plaintiff Minor suffered traumatic, repeated, and now life-altering sexual violence; personal and physical injuries; past, present and future pain and suffering; past, present and future medical expenses; permanent injuries; severe and permanent mental anguish, disability and emotional distress; loss of the capacity for the enjoyment of life; incidental expenses; consequential damages to be proven at trial; and general damages.

82.

The Plaintiffs are entitled to bring this suit pursuant to Georgia law and seek all damages to which they may be entitled as a result of the horrific injuries sustained by Plaintiff Minor.

COUNT SIX

AGENCY DEFENDANTS - WEFLCC and SACA

83.

Plaintiffs re-allege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if restated herein in their entirety.

84.

The above-described acts of Defendant Jared Watson were committed while he was acting in furtherance of WEFLCC and/or SACA's operations at the subject Bible Camp and/or at the express or implied authorization of WEFLCC and/or SACA.

85.

Moreover, Defendant Jared Watson committed the above-described acts while acting as an agent, servant, and/or employee of Defendants WEFLCC and/or SACA.

86.

As principals of Defendant Jared Watson, Defendants WEFLCC and/or SACA were responsible for all acts committed by Defendant Watson within the scope of his agency, including the traumatic sexual violence of Plaintiff Minor as described above, and all damages recoverable under Georgia law caused by such conduct.

87.

The Plaintiffs are entitled to bring this suit pursuant to Georgia law and seek all damages to which they may be entitled as a result of the horrific injuries sustained by Plaintiff Minor.

COUNT SEVEN

ASSAULT AND BATTERY

88.

Plaintiffs re-allege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if restated herein in their entirety.

89.

The above-described acts of Defendant Jared Watson, and by virtue of his relationship with WEFLCC and/or SACA, all Defendants, demonstrate that caused repeated violent acts – including

traumatic sexual violence, to be carried out on Plaintiff Minor over the course of the referenced subject Bible Camp.

90.

As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned Defendants' conduct, as set forth above, Plaintiff Minor suffered traumatic, repeated, and now life-altering sexual violence; personal and physical injuries; past, present and future pain and suffering; past, present and future medical expenses; permanent injuries; severe and permanent mental anguish, disability and emotional distress; loss of the capacity for the enjoyment of life; incidental expenses; consequential damages to be proven at trial; and general damages.

91.

The Plaintiffs are entitled to bring this suit pursuant to Georgia law and seek all damages to which they may be entitled as a result of the horrific injuries sustained by Plaintiff Minor.

COUNT EIGHT

PUNITIVE DAMAGES

92.

Plaintiffs re-allege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if restated herein in their entirety.

93.

The WEFLCC, SACA and/or John Doe Defendants' knowledge of the hazards presented (whether specific to the Bible Camp or from previous incidents known to them), and their failure to perform their duties as discussed above, as well as their failure to make the premises, its operations, and their employees and agents' interaction with minor children and/or vulnerable persons reasonably safe, as well as their failure to exercise reasonable care in the hiring; training;

management; oversight and/or supervision of said persons in furtherance of their operations, amounted to willful misconduct, malice, wantonness, oppression, or that entire want of care which would raise the presumption of conscious indifference to the consequences.

94.

Moreover, the Defendants' conduct towards the Plaintiffs demonstrates a willful misconduct, malice, wantonness, oppression or entire want of care which would raise the presumption of conscious indifference to the consequences.

95.

Accordingly, the Plaintiff should be entitled to an award of punitive damages pursuant to the laws of the State of Georgia.

COUNT NINE

ATTORNEY'S FEES AND LITIGATION COSTS

96.

Plaintiffs re-allege all allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if restated herein in their entirety.

97.

The facts of this case make clear that the Defendants are liable for the catastrophic injuries sustained by Plaintiff Minor, and the corresponding damages suffered by Plaintiff Smith for the care of Plaintiff Minor. The Plaintiffs have at least one valid, underlying claim against the Defendants.

98.

Before filing suit, the Plaintiffs gave the Defendants an opportunity to admit liability and resolve the matter without further court intervention, but the Defendants refused and continue to dispute their liability notwithstanding the unconscionable facts in this case.

99.

Therefore, and notwithstanding the facts in this case and the efforts by the Plaintiffs to resolve this matter without the need for unnecessary court intervention, the Defendants have chosen a path of litigation that is in bad faith, is stubbornly litigious, unnecessary, and costly.

100.

In order to be made whole for their injuries and damages caused by the Defendants, the Plaintiffs are now left with no choice but to file suit against the Defendants, and foreseeably incur significant litigation costs, expenses, and trauma associated with reliving the acts perpetrated previously in this matter.

101.

Accordingly, the Plaintiffs should be entitled to an award of attorney fees, litigation costs and expenses, and any further relief allowable under the Georgia Civil Practice Act (including, for example, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11 and § 9-11-68) and Georgia case precedent.

* * * * *

WHEREFORE, THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Plaintiffs respectfully move this Honorable Court for the following relief in this civil action:

1. The summons and process be issued requiring these Defendants appear as provided by law to answer the allegations of the Complaint;
2. That the Plaintiffs have a TRIAL BY JURY of all triable issues;

3. That the Plaintiffs recover all compensatory damages afforded by the State of Georgia as a result of the Defendants' wrongful conduct, including but not limited to:
 - a. Past, present and future pain and suffering;
 - b. Past, present and future mental anguish;
 - c. All damages to compensate for physical injuries, medical conditions, and associated medical procedures;
 - d. All special damages, including: medical and hospital expenses for past treatment, medical and hospital expenses for future treatment, past lost earnings and wages, future lost earnings and wages, out of pocket costs – including all travel costs;
 - e. All Plaintiff caregiver expenses and costs associated with the care and treatment of a minor;
 - f. All Plaintiff caregiver damages associated with the mental anguish and trauma caused by the sexual violence perpetrated on Plaintiff N.G., a minor.
4. That the Plaintiffs recover punitive damages against the Defendants as determined by a trial by jury;
5. That the Plaintiffs recover the costs associated with bringing this civil action, including for litigation costs, expenses, time and attorneys' fees.
6. That the Plaintiffs recover all damages to which they would be entitled to under Georgia law; and
7. That the Plaintiffs have all such relief that a Georgia Court would deem appropriate and just.

TRIAL BY JURY IS HEREBY DEMANDED.

Respectfully submitted, this 18th day of November 2021.

**BEASLEY, ALLEN, CROW, METHVIN,
PORTIS & MILES, P.C.**

/s/ J. Parker Miller
J. PARKER MILLER
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Attorney for Plaintiffs

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LAMAR LAW OFFICE, LLC

/s/ Anita M. Lamar, Esq.
Anita M. Lamar, Esq.
Georgia Bar No. 892383
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Telephone: (678) 819-5200
Facsimile: (678) 819-5276
Email: anita@atlantaleglcare.com

DEFENDANTS MAY BE SERVED AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:

WEST END FAMILY LIFE AND COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.
c/o Marcellus Howard, Registered Agent
1191 Donnelly Ave
Atlanta, GA 30310

SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS, INC.
c/o Wendell K. Willard, Registered Agent
100 Galleria Pkwy
Suite 1600
Atlanta, GA 30339

Jared D. Watson
c/o Fulton County Jail
901 Rice Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30318

Exhibit

A

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF FULTON

TEMPORARY LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR

From the Judge of the Probate Court of said County. ESTATE NO.

TO: Jeanette McGriff Smith, Guardian

RE: _____, Minor

The above named minor has been found by this Court to be in need of a guardian, and this Court has entered an order appointing you as such guardian. You have assented to this appointment by taking your oath. In general, your duties as guardian are to protect and maintain the person of the minor.

Special Instructions:

1. It is your duty to see that the minor is adequately fed, clothed, sheltered, educated and cared for, and that the minor receives all necessary medical attention.
2. You must keep the Court informed of any change in your name or address.
3. You should inform the Court of any change of location of the minor.
4. If the Order appointing you requires, you must file an annual Personal Status Report concerning the minor.
5. Please consult your attorney if you have any questions. Your authority to act pursuant to these Letters is subject to applicable statutes and to any special orders entered in this case.

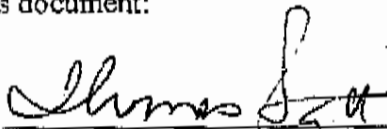
If initialed, the guardianship shall be deemed a permanent guardianship for the purposes of the guardian's(s') obtaining medical insurance coverage for the minor.

Given under my hand and official seal, the 2nd day of October, 2013.



Judge of the Probate Court

NOTE: The following must be signed if the judge does not sign the original of this document:

Issued by: 

PROBATE CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK (Seal)

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