



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

MIKE HATCH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 23, 2005

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445 MINNESOTA STREET
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-2130
TELEPHONE: (651) 296-9412

Rev. Edward G. Palmer
15548 95th Circle NE
Elk River, MN 55330

Dear Rev. Palmer:

I thank you for your correspondence received on December 7, 2005.

You write regarding several allegations against Solid Rock Church, Inc. of Elk River including theft and fraud. You indicate that the theft occurred between 1993 and 1995 and you discovered it in April of 1998. You indicate that you filed written complaints with the Elk River Police, Sherburne County Sheriff, Sherburne County Attorney and this Office. You state that you brought two *pro se* lawsuits against Solid Rock Church and other individuals, but both lawsuits were dismissed. You ask this Office to review the matter.

Under Minnesota law, the Attorney General's Office has limited authority. For instance, it has jurisdiction to represent State agencies. It does not, however, have jurisdiction to represent private citizens. Notwithstanding this limitation, I can provide the following comments, which I hope you will find helpful.

First, you were correct to report your claims of theft and fraud to criminal authorities. This Office has no authority to investigate criminal wrongdoing. Rather, the legislature has delegated to local law enforcement agencies the authority to investigate and prosecute criminal wrongdoing, and they would have jurisdiction to investigate your claims.

Second, this Office has no authority over judges or the judicial process. Parties to lawsuits who disagree with a court's ruling have the ability to appeal the court's decision. Because the lawsuits you initiated were decided a number of years ago, however, the deadlines to appeal those decisions have passed.

I thank you again for your correspondence. I regret that we cannot be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keiko Sugisaka".

KEIKO SUGISAKA
Assistant Attorney General

AG: #1532287-v1/JPB/2005/320724/R

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