

My name is Joni Abbott. I am a legal assistant. I have assisted plaintiff's attorneys during jury trials and women and their attorneys in high-conflict divorces.

For the past 3 months, I've been researching 3 men who are self-proclaimed "cult experts." These men and their services were solicited by a small group of abusive fathers and/or family members who are continuing coercive control and post-separation abuse of their victims, some of whom are my clients.

I share the following information about **Joe Szimhart, Steve Hassan and Rick Ross**. Their *37-year* career connection began around 1986 with an organization called CAN (Cult Awareness Network) . At that time, these men were independent cult deprogrammers who received referrals for tens of thousands of dollars from the CAN organization. What they did to abuse their victims will be outlined in this report.

Once CAN was sued for millions in 1995, they continued to practice "deprogramming" but changed the name using third-party techniques often used in PR campaigns, to make what do appear more positive.

To this day, they call themselves "exit counselors (Joe Szminhart)," "thought reform consultant (Rick Ross)," "Strategic Interactive Approach (Steve Hassan)" or some variation thereof, to imply less harm is done to the victims they are abusing to deprogram.

– Due to these developments, by the early 2000s a modified anti-cult technique emerged in which those making outlandish claims about a minority faith group would *conceal* the fact that they had been deprogrammed and were now associated with an anti-cult group. Rather, they would present themselves to the public as "concerned disciples" of such-and-such teacher. They just *happened* to have contact info for Joe Szimhart, Rick Ross, Steve Hassan, the American Family Foundation (a.k.a. International Cultic Studies Association), etc. Broadly speaking, this was an attempt by anti-cultists to use **third-party techniques** (such as *astroturfing*) to regain lost credibility.

– The American Family Foundation (a.k.a. International Cultic Studies Association) was the sister organization of the now defunct Cult Awareness Network, and the largest surviving U.S. anti-cult organization. Post-CAN, there seems to have been a decision at AFF/ICSA to unquestioningly support decentralized ex-member groups, while trying to appear above the type of gutter rhetoric such groups often employ. AFF/ICSA would leave it to individual stringers engaged in astroturfing to give out contact info for deprogrammers. By avoiding direct referrals to deprogrammers, AFF/ICSA hoped to escape the same organizational fate as CAN.

- <https://ethicsandspirituality.wordpress.com/2020/06/08/deprogramming-jennifer-jacobs-re-joe-szimhart/>

**Legal Declaration of:**

**Lowell Streiker**

**Regarding CAN cult deprogrammers**

I, LOWELL D. STREIKER, do hereby declare and state:

1. I am the former executive director of Freedom Counseling Center in Burlingame, California, a position which I held from 1970 through 1985. I personally founded the Freedom Counseling Center in 1979 as a non-profit public benefit corporation offering professional services for individuals and families disturbed by nontraditional religions. During the six years in which I served as director of the Center, over 1,000 families throughout the world were assisted.

2. I also have a Ph.D. in Religion from Princeton University and have authored several books concerning traditional and newer religions. I am currently Pastor of the Ladera Community Church (United Church of Christ) in Portola Valley, California.

3. In my years as a counselor, I have become well acquainted with the so-called "anti-cult" network, which is a loose-knit confederation of parents' groups, deprogrammers, dissatisfied former group members, cult-concerned mental health professionals, attorneys and evangelical religious propagandists.

4. A major element in the anti-cult network is the "Cult Awareness Network" (C.A.N.), a group which describes itself as a "national non-profit organization founded to educate the public about the harmful effects of mind control as used by destructive cults."

5. The official policy of the national CAN on deprogramming states that CAN is opposed to kidnapping. Yet CAN executive directors and presidents have regularly referred members of the public to individuals known as "deprogrammers." Deprogrammers were CAN members who actively engage in the illegal kidnapping and subsequent false imprisonment of adults, in an attempt to force them to relinquish their chosen religious beliefs. Some deprogrammers have been convicted of kidnapping and false imprisonment since the formation of CAN. [Note: CAN was formerly

6. As a counselor of families disturbed by so-called cults and an opponent of forcible deprogramming, I could estimate that eighty percent of all deprogrammings that have been reported to me were set up by CAN national headquarters, or its chapters. Approximately two-thirds of those actively involved in CAN are vehemently in favor of coercive deprogramming and most of them have used the services of such big name deprogrammers as Ted Patrick, Joe Alexander Jr, Galen Kelly, Cliff Daniels, Mark Blockson and **Joe Szimhart**.

7. For example, Jon Ruth, a university graduate student in Colorado, was kidnapped by deprogrammers hired by his parents, who did not approve of the young woman he was about to marry. Using the fact that Jon had attended a Lifespring workshop as a pretense, he was kidnapped and forced to renounce his fiancée. A private detective retained by Jon's fiancée was able to determine Jon's location by phoning CAN in Chicago, claiming to have a relative involved in Lifespring, and asking for a referral to someone in Colorado. The person to whom the investigator was referred was a deprogrammer, who, at that very time, was holding Ruth.

8. A client of mine, who later became a personal friend, had a son who had been with a newer religious group a few days. She contacted CAN and was told that her son had suffered possible brain damage as a result of the group's use of "mind control." The mother was warned that if her son were not deprogrammed he would probably go insane and kill himself. When the young man returned home after having left the group in question, the mother had him committed to a mental hospital and deprogrammed by the president of the local chapter of CAN. The hospital determined that he was not suffering from any form of mental illness and released him. As he no longer trusted his mother, he went to live with his father. Unable to shake his feelings of despondency and rejection, he committed suicide. The young man and his mother had always been very close. But when he turned to her after his short stay with a "cult," she opted to listen to the deprogrammers rather than to her own son, had him locked up, forced to listen to anti-cult propaganda and drugged. He must have been devastated.

9. Over the years, I've attempted to keep myself apprised of what members of CAN were up to. I've read about several CAN deprogrammers being arrested for kidnapping. The most recent kidnapping arrests I've read about took place during the last two months when CAN deprogrammers Joe Szimhart, Mary Alice Chrnloger and others were arrested for the kidnapping of a 39-year-old woman from a Christian religion in Boise, Idaho. A copy of some of the press clipping about the kidnapping are attached.

10. One of the deprogrammers that CAN frequently referred members of the public to was Cliff Daniels. Attached is a copy of a court document filed in one of Mr. Daniel's criminal cases involving the River of Life Ministry. The document was prepared by the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office after Mr. Daniels was arrested and charged with 3 counts of kidnapping, 7 counts of false imprisonment, and 1 count of burglary. The document describes how the deprogramming occurred. Also attached is a copy of the Criminal Information filed in this case, a copy of one of the newspaper articles about Mr. Daniels' arrest and copies of other relevant materials.

11. I have personal knowledge of Cliff Daniels' violent deprogrammings. In 1981 I consulted a client named Dorothy Mitchell, who had family members in the River of Life Ministry. In the course of counseling Ms. Mitchell, I had the occasion to speak to Daniels, who was involved in deprogrammings at this time with other members of the River of Life Ministry. Daniels volunteered to me the information that he had used illegal drugs while involved in deprogrammings and that he had had sex with one of his deprogramming victims.

12. I recall two other women, both former members of the River of Life Ministry, whose names I would prefer not to disclose, who asserted in the course of being counseled by me that Daniels had tried, repeatedly and persistently, to seduce them. Based on my conversations with Daniels and the two women it is clear that Daniel's approach was to use sex as a test to see whether the woman was completely out of the cult -- or so he told them. If the women continued to say no to his advances, Daniels who plead, cajole, insult, and accuse them of not really having been deprogrammed.

DECLARATION OF LOWELL D. STREIKER, PH.D.

May 14, 1992

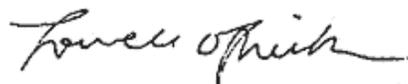
13. I was personally present when Daniels made arrangements with the then executive director of CAN to fly deprogrammers to California from various other states for the purpose of kidnapping members of the River of Life Ministry.

I've become very disgusted with CAN, having personally had to clean up the wreckage that was left by their deprogrammings which went sour over the years. Several highly distraught and depressed deprogramming victims have been referred to me by various CAN members.

14. Citing CAN and deprogrammers as experts on the harm caused by non-traditional religions is like quoting leaders of the American Nazi Party as experts when they claim that the American economy is harmed by what they view as the Jewish control of banking. Not only is the uncritical acceptance of CAN dogma unfair, but it is devastating to our most cherished constitutional rights and antagonistic to the pursuit of spiritual truths by citizens of a pluralistic society.

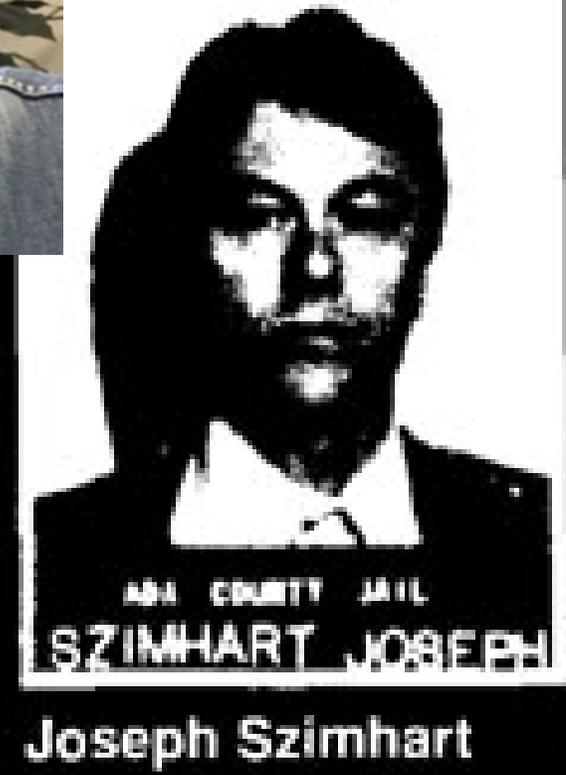
I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of California and under the laws of the United States that the statements in this declaration are true and correct.

Signed this 14th day of May 1992, in San Mateo County, State of California.



LOWELL D. STREIKER, PH.D.

# Joe Szimhart



# Joe Szimhart

- Self proclaimed cult expert.
- <https://www.jszimhart.com/>
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@josephszimhart9431>

**Legal Declaration of Joe Szimhart's  
Victim:**

**Karen Lever**

DECLARATION OF KAREN LEVER

I, Karen Lever, declare:



1. In the spring of 1990, in my capacity as president of Sunyata Systems, Inc., a computer consulting company based in Redmond, Washington, I scheduled a series of business meetings to take place in Southern California during the week of May 28, 1990. The meetings included appointments with the data processing manager at Paramount Studios and a vice president at the Security Pacific Bank data processing center in Cypress. I planned to fly from Seattle to Los Angeles on May 27, 1990. At the time, I was 33 years old and had been self-supporting for six years.

2. On May 27, 1990, I arrived at the long term parking structure at the Seattle airport. While I was unloading luggage from my car onto a luggage cart, a large van pulled up a few feet behind me. Three men got out of the side door of the van, and at least two of them grabbed me. I screamed and wrapped my legs around the luggage cart, but with the help of another man inside the van, the men forced me into the van and onto the floor. As a fifth man began to drive the van away, the men forced me to lie face down. They took my car keys and purse. One man sat on me and clamped his hand over my mouth to prevent me from screaming as we passed through the airport parking pay booth. I could hardly breathe. My face was cut in several places.

3. The van drove for at least half an hour. During that time, the men talked on the radio to people in another car. The men told me that my parents, Dr. Ronald S. Lever and Doreen Lever, were following in a car behind the van, and that my parents had picked up my luggage from the cart at the airport. They told me that the back door of the van could not be opened from the inside.

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19 car keys and purse. One man sat on me and clamped his hand over my mouth to prevent me  
20 from screaming as we passed through the airport parking pay booth. I could hardly breathe.  
21 My face was cut in several places.

25 as Joe Szimhart arrived. I recognized Szimhart from a television program I had once seen  
26 which featured several people affiliated with the "Cult Awareness Network." Szimhart told me  
27 that he was an expert on cults, and that he and my parents believed I was a "cult victim"  
28 because I had attended lectures and seminars given by Dr. Frederick Lenz. He told me that

R. KAUS & ETTINGER

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1 he was my "deprogrammer," and the men in the van were the "security team." He told me that  
2 he would direct the "deprogramming," but my parents had to consent to the events and  
3 duration of the deprogramming because they were paying the bills.

14 10. Szimhart and the deprogramming and security teams kept me captive for  
15 eight days. They guarded me twenty-four hours a day and allowed me no privacy whatsoever.  
16 For example, the bathroom door was nailed open, and whenever I needed to use the  
17 bathroom, one of my captors accompanied me and waited just outside the door. During much  
18 of each day and evening, Szimhart lectured me about cults, mind control, and occultism, and  
19 made me watch a number of videotapes about these subjects, as well as tapes of his own  
20 interviews with "cult members" whom he claimed to have successfully deprogrammed. He also  
21 made me watch videotapes of three television shows about Dr. Lenz (all of which I had  
22 already seen), read me outdated literature about Dr. Lenz, and lectured me about other  
23 people's criticisms of Dr. Lenz. At other times, four or five of my captors would gather in my  
24 bare room, joking about how I could have escaped at the Seattle airport and discussing my  
25 mental condition, lack of communication, family life, and immaturity.

24 13. Szimhart told me that he rarely participated in this "coercive style of  
25 deprogramming" any more because it involved the risk of going to jail, and he preferred to  
26 avoid that risk because he had a wife and daughter to consider. One of the men told me that  
27 each participant in the deprogramming scheme carried enough cash to escape by airplane in  
28 the event police were notified.

17           12. I became increasingly depressed and soon felt the physical effects of being  
18 confined to a small space with no food or exercise or privacy. On Thursday afternoon,  
19 Szimhart said that I might be reaching a "saturation point," but that he could not let me go  
20 because my father had left for a few days to attend to business of his own, aware that his  
21 absence would extend the length of the deprogramming. Since my father was paying for the  
22 deprogramming, Szimhart needed his permission in order to release me.

23  
11           16. The day I returned, I spoke with Detective Steven Hardwick of the  
12 Redmond Police Department and Detective E. Richardson from the Port of Seattle Police  
13 Department. I had learned that the Redmond Police Department had opened a missing  
14 persons file on me, Case No. 90-7118V. The detectives told me that they viewed the case as  
15 kidnapping and false imprisonment, and that they believed the participants should be  
16 criminally prosecuted.

**Legal Declaration of Joe Szimhart's  
Victim:**

**Jennifer Jacobs**

5 1. One evening in October 1987, after a seemingly friendly dinner in an elegant

7 Seattle restaurant, my father and I were walking through a deserted parking lot to get to his  
8 car. As we approached the car, three burly men suddenly surrounded me, picked me up into  
9 the air, and forced me into a van. I thought they were planning to rape me. As I struggled  
10 and screamed for help, my father, who was in good athletic shape, did nothing to free me.  
11 Once I was lodged inside the van, I heard a voice say from behind me, "It's OK, Jennifer,  
12 we're here to help you." It was my mother.

14 2. The three men, who smelled of sweat and alcohol, drove the van in zigzags,  
15 communicating in walkie talkies with another car about eluding the police. They took me in  
16 the van to a sleazy motel where all the windows had been nailed shut, the blinds were drawn,  
17 and the phones removed. They kept me imprisoned in a tiny, dirty space for over eleven days.

19 3. My captors consisted of two "deprogrammers" - Joe Szimhart and Mark  
20 Blocksom (a former heroin dealer and convicted felon); three "security guards" acting under  
21 Blocksom's direction; Lisa ("Mercedes") Hughes, an acquaintance of mine from college; Steve  
22 Putnam, my former boyfriend; and my parents, Walter and Julie Jacobs. To my knowledge,  
23 none of these people had any professional training in counseling or psychotherapy.

25 4. When I asked why I had been kidnapped, I was told that my father, Walter  
26 Jacobs, had contacted the Cult Awareness Network at the advice of Stephen Putnam and  
27 Mercedes Hughes. The Cult Awareness Network had advised my parents that kidnapping or  
28 institutionalization was the only possible solution for my "condition." 248

1 DECLARATION OF JENNIFER JACOBS

2 I, Jennifer Jacobs, declare:

3  
4 The Deprogramming



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28 institutionalization was the only possible solution for my "condition." 248

5           6. My captors did not let me out of the motel room at any time. At least one  
7 man watched me 24 hours a day, including when I was using the bathroom or showering.  
8 They allowed me only a few hours of sleep each night. When I became ill with the flu on the  
9 fourth day, they refused to let me see a doctor or to give me any medication, and my flu  
10 continued to get worse.

11  
12           7. Throughout the time of my captivity, Blocksom and the other security guards  
13 used cocaine heavily. The cocaine made Blocksom become enraged and violent. More than  
14 once, the other men had to physically restrain him to keep him from beating me up. Szimhart  
15 saw them using cocaine but did not appear to object.

27

9. The "deprogrammers" used many brainwashing techniques similar to the

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techniques used in the Korean War on American POWs.

24!

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10. One technique was repetition. Szimhart forced me to watch Charles

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Manson videos over and over again. He lectured me constantly about cults, mind control and

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religion in terms that showed very little understanding or education. He told me that his

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qualifications to deliver the lectures were that he himself had been a victim of "mind control"

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as a member of Elizabeth Clare Prophet's "cult." He stated that since this experience, he had

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come to realize that almost all new age and non-traditional religions were cults.

7

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11. Another brainwashing technique was a sense of dependence. All my clothes

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and possessions were taken away from me and I was forced to wear prison-color baggy

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sweatsuits. I was not allowed to choose what or when to eat, to go to the bathroom myself

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(in case I became violent) or even sleep in a room by myself. At all times, there was at least

12

one person watching me, letting me know that I was incapable of making my own decisions.

14           12. Another POW-style technique was the threat of continued incarceration,  
15 combined with the promise of release if I cooperated. Szimhart and my father threatened to  
16 send me to an insane asylum if I did not renounce my belief in Buddhism.

17  
18           13. One night I tried to escape. I kept myself awake by digging my  
19 fingernails into my palms while pretending to be asleep. Finally, at about 4:00 A.M., when the  
20 guard went into the bathroom, I jumped out of bed and ran out the door toward the street  
21 lights, screaming for help. The guard came chasing after me, yelling, "You bitch, you fucking  
22 bitch! Nobody runs away from me!" He caught up with me, tackled me to the ground, threw  
23 me over his shoulder and carried me kicking and screaming, back to the motel. They were  
24 very afraid that someone might have heard me and telephoned the police. Szimhart was very  
25 angry and after that began to treat me with increasing cruelty.

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27  
28  
2511

27           14. Another brainwashing technique was a forced confession. Szimhart tried  
28 relentlessly to get me to "confess" to "facts" that were completely untrue and often utterly

22                   26. After releasing me from captivity, Szimhart and Mercedes continued to  
23 contact me to ask me to lie to the media about Dr. Lenz. Specifically, Szimhart asked me to  
24 tell a reporter from Newsweek magazine that Dr. Lenz had "brainwashed" me, to tell other  
25 reporters that I had been Dr. Lenz's lover and that he had forced me to take drugs, and to  
26 repeat these lies in a video tape which the Cult Awareness Network would distribute to the  
27 media. He also asked me to submit a legal document to Cult Awareness Network attorneys  
28 which would describe the "bad" experiences Dr. Lenz had subjected me to, and to file a lawsuit

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1    against Dr. Lenz and the Rama Seminars organization.

13 After Effects of Deprogramming

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15 36. At the time of my deprogramming my parents and the other kidnapers  
16 threatened that they would kidnap me again if the deprogramming did not work. Since then,  
17 I have lived in almost continuous fear of a second kidnapping.

18

19 37. To prevent a second kidnapping I make it a practice to change my address  
20 and telephone number every three or four months and I am very careful to maintain my  
21 privacy. I also cut off all contacts with my parents. Despite all of my efforts my parent's  
22 letters always arrive at the correct address soon after I move even when my other mail does  
23 not.

24

25 38. In all of the letters that my parents have sent to me, they have never once  
26 apologized or expressed any regret for the brutal kidnapping which left me physically and  
27 emotionally devastated and which has caused my total estrangement from them.

28

**Legal Declaration of Joe Szimhart's  
Victim:**

**LaVerne Collins Macchio**

## A "Deprogrammer's" Viewpoint

These observations on the case, and on the issue of cult deprogramming, are provided by Joseph P. Szimhart, who describes his involvement in the Collins-Macchio case. I provide this information with the intention that it be used to help people to understand the matter from several perspectives, and not as an endorsement. For a different perspective please read the [Society for the Scientific Study of Religion's Resolution on New Religious Movements](#).

3 December 1996

Joseph P. Szimhart

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3 December 1996

[Joseph P. Szimhart](#)

## Comments regarding a 'deprogramming' incident in Boise, Idaho in November, 1991

help--therefore I was left out of their plans. Whatever their plans were, only Mrs. Coelho and her other daughter, Patricia, a nurse, arranged the intervention. To the best of my knowledge--and after hearing the evidence in court during my trial in April, 1993--even LaVerne's husband, Ross, and her father did not know that the senior LaVerne had planned an abduction. The abduction team, four people from New Jersey, apparently came up with the plan to abduct spontaneously after going out to Idaho to assess the situation. According to Mrs. Coelho's court testimony, LaVerne Collins was apparently with CUT members nearly all the time, which made it impossible for the mother to approach her freely with information--notwithstanding the existing restraining order. The senior LaVerne's urgency coupled with the security team's inexperience, led to the decision to abduct LaVerne from her home.

Several days after the abduction, Mary Alice Chmalogor, a former, one year CUT member and 'deprogrammer', and Ken Paolina, another former CUT member who was once the head of CUT security during his ten year devotion to the group, were retained to talk with LaVerne. Paolina was not a professional 'deprogrammer.' According to their testimony, they had no idea that an abduction had taken place until after they arrived on the scene. What they were told by Mrs. Coelho was that she had already been approached by the police in Boise about the abduction. She assured the officer that she would assume responsibility for her daughter LaVerne and bring her home after a few days of discussions. She and her other daughter, who had informed LaVerne's children and husband of what was happening immediately after the abduction, went to join the security team with LaVerne at a motel where she was being allegedly held. The senior LaVerne and the security team assumed that they had official sanction for their actions at that time.

I had known two of the security team members, Joy and Carmine DeSanctis, from a prior case on which they had done surveillance and minimal security work. That case worked out very well and they were comfortable with my abilities during an intervention. They, like Mrs. Coelho, wanted me to talk with LaVerne if I were available. They discovered through a phone call to me during that week that I could come to Idaho. Carmine DeSanctis with Mrs. Coelho arranged for my flight. Chmalogor and Paolina had been there already for a day when I arrived. Like them I learned about the abduction and the "arrangement" with the police officer after I arrived. I also learned from LaVerne Collins that she would "listen" for several days, but wanted to be home before "Thanksgiving."

I will not go into detail about these discussions-- suffice it to say that I personally spent little time with LaVerne as she did not seem to be interested in any in-depth look at the CUT. Understandably, she was not happy about the intervention, even though she and her mother and sister seemed to get along well outside of discussions about the CUT.

As per my agreement, after three days I left. I could see by the third day that we were not making any progress with LaVerne. While I sat at the Boise airport, I noticed the local newspaper had an article about the abduction. CUT members had had a press conference. The Boise prosecutor's office were evidently influenced by the CUT already. A few days after I arrived home I learned that the senior LaVerne had been arrested in Boise for 'kidnapping.' Her other daughter, Patricia who was pregnant at the time, was arrested as she departed from a plane in a California airport that same day. Two months later, at the end of January, 1992, I was the next one arrested at my home in Santa Fe, NM. After being handcuffed inside my home by five officers, I was informed that I was a "fugitive from justice" wanted in Idaho for "aiding and abetting a kidnapping." The warrant included a search document that wanted any and all materials in my home related to the case as well as videos and documents that mentioned CUT, the Hare Krishnas, the Mormons (one prosecutor was a Mormon), the Unification Church (the Moonies), or the Catholic Church. The plaintiff and prosecution seemed to want to prove that I was against all these religions--a bogus notion. I spent the weekend in jail until my wife could gather ten thousand dollars in cash to bail me out. We later signed over the deed to our home as bail.

Chmalogor and Paolina were also arrested, but not jailed, nor was their bail set so high. The four security persons were arrested soon after, but to my knowledge their bail was much lower as well. Apparently, the prosecutors were initially led to believe that I was the "heavy," and that I may have arranged the entire event. This "belief" proved to be an embarrassment to the prosecutors in court. They hardly cross-examined me after hearing the evidence with my testimony. They had been misled by CUT and "cult" propaganda about deprogrammers, their techniques, and their motives. The charges against the mother and sister were dropped in 1992. The prosecution offered us, the three "deprogrammers," a plea bargain at our arraignment in March of 1992--which was no bargain. We elected to plead "not guilty" and stand trial. The four security persons were to stand trial separately. On April 23, 1993 Paolina and I were acquitted on all counts after nearly a month of litigation before a jury. The jury was "hung" 11 to 1 to acquit Chmalogor. Charges against her were subsequently dismissed.

Our case was concurrent with the Randy Weaver trial a few blocks away in a Federal court. Weaver was the white separatist accused of murdering an FBI agent when they assaulted his home after trying to serve a warrant. The news also carried events related to the Branch Davidian holdout at Waco, Texas at that time. During the closing arguments in our case by the prosecution on April 19, the Branch Davidian compound went up in flames. The jury's deliberations and verdict in our case were not effected by these events--we spoke with most of the jury members directly after the verdict--but it felt weird to us that two other events related to "mind control" and "cult" activity garnered national attention at that time. Our case received little attention outside of Idaho and Montana.

The security team were offered a relatively lenient plea after the verdict in our trial. They elected not to go to trial due to the expense, they pled guilty to a misdemeanor with a sentence of two weeks maximum in jail. The "necessity defense" allowed by the judge in our case (several jury members told me that Paolina and I would have been acquitted without the necessity defense) was disallowed on appeal to a higher court in the security team's case. In November of 1996, five years after the incident, all four were sentenced to one week in jail, \$2,500 fines and some years probation with community service. The security persons agreed in their plea to automatically accept a felony if the necessity defense were disallowed. So each now has a "felony" on their records without a conviction by a jury. Two of them, Michael Howley and Charles Allen Kelly, had never worked on an intervention before. The husband and wife team of Joy and Carmine DeSanctis had engaged Kelly and Howley to help them carry out, what they surmised, to be a "mission of mercy."

Obviously, there are many points of view in a case such as this one. The jury heard our story as well as the plaintiff's. They found Paolina and I innocent unanimously, and Chmalogor as well save by one vote. Clearly, this was not a simple situation of one side not liking the other side's religion. CUT's prophecies, behavior and influence over LaVerne Collins-Macchio had a deleterious effect on her marriage and relationship with her family. Her choice to follow CUT teachings is protected by law, as it should be, but her family believed that it was necessary to "break" the law to help her and keep their family intact. We, the "deprogrammers," did not try to convince the family that CUT was a dangerous "cult." Nor did we try to talk them into attempting a dramatic intervention. Apparently, the Church Universal and Triumphant's track record and influence over LaVerne had already done that much for the family. My role was to merely explain why I had rejected the CUT, and why I might dissuade anyone from joining it. I may be very good at doing just that, but the choice to accept my information is just that, a choice, and one that I cannot force on anyone under any circumstance. If nothing else, LaVerne Collins-Macchio proved that much.

Note: My "history" with the CUT goes back to the mid 1970's when I first became interested in their teachings. I rejected CUT and similar groups as "manipulative and deceitful" by 1980. Since then I have helped dozens of persons and some family groups reevaluate their CUT devotion and influence then to leave the group. I began to make a thorough study of the "cult mind control" phenomena and continue to today. In 1986 I began working with deprogrammers and exit counselors regarding the influence of a wide variety of groups and sects. I have since become a professional consultant in this arena of new religious movements, controversial therapies and the use of thought reform in such activities. The prosecutors were probably led to seek out negative information I may have had about Mormons, Catholics, "Moonies," Hare Krishnas and the CUT in order to "prove" that I was anti-religion, no matter what it was. I am a Catholic, I have been lured and consulted several times by Mormons, and I do not have anything against the other three groups mentioned in terms of their beliefs. How a person is manipulated or deceived into believing anything is my concern. My religious persuasion does not play a role in my work with people under controversial influences. Although I had in a small percentage of my cases over a four year period worked with security teams, I ceased such activity altogether in 1992. I no longer work with families who elect to restrain a "cult" member at any time during an intervention.

# The details of the kidnapping and Joe Szimhart's involvement in his own words.

<https://www.psywww.com/psyrelig/szimhart.htm>

Other events alarmed LaVerne Collins' family. In July, 1989 CUT's chief of security, Vernon Hamilton, and Elizabeth Prophet's husband, Ed Francis, were caught and arrested for illegally purchasing weapons for church use for the shelters (see Scott McMillion, February 27, 1995. "Church members' gun-buying outlined: Justice Department documents released to the Chronicle", Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Bozeman, Montana). Since the early 1970s, CUT had apparently amassed an arsenal that included a tank. The weapons were all allegedly legal for private ownership, but the IRS had a problem with a non-profit religion owning an arsenal in secret. So did the local population in Montana. So did the Coehlos (LaVerne's parents). By the time Ross Collins returned from his duty in California, his marriage was in jeopardy. LaVerne's parents and sister tried again to dissuade her from CUT influence on their own, but it did not work. This time LaVerne Collins took out a legal restraining order to keep her family away. It only increased the family's anxiety. By August of 1991, LaVerne Coehlo (Collins-Macchio's mother) and her other daughter began interviewing "deprogrammers" to help them. I was one of the people they contacted.

As per my agreement, after three days I left. I could see by the third day that we were not making any progress with LaVerne. While I sat at the Boise airport, I noticed the local newspaper had an article about the abduction. CUT members had had a press conference. The Boise prosecutor's office were evidently influenced by the CUT already. A few days after I arrived home I learned that the senior LaVerne had been arrested in Boise for "kidnapping." Her other daughter, Patricia who was pregnant at the time, was arrested as she departed from a plane in a California airport that same day. Two months later, at the end of January, 1992, I was the next one arrested at my home in Santa Fe, NM. After being handcuffed inside my home by five officers, I was informed that I was a "fugitive from justice" wanted in Idaho for "aiding and abetting a kidnapping." The warrant included a search document that wanted any and all materials in my home related to the case as well as videos and documents that mentioned CUT, the Hare Krishnas, the Mormons (one prosecutor was a Mormon), the Unification Church (the Moonies), or the Catholic Church. The plaintiff and prosecution seemed to want to prove that I was against all these religions--a bogus notion. I spent the weekend in jail until my wife could gather ten thousand dollars in cash to bail me out. We later signed over the deed to our home as bail.

**Joe Szimhart knew this woman was being held against her will and did nothing. He was an accomplice, arrested and later acquitted by a jury.**

Note: My "history" with the CUT goes back to the mid 1970s when I first became interested in their teachings. I rejected CUT and similar groups as "manipulative and deceitful" by 1980. Since then I have helped dozens of persons and some family groups reevaluate their CUT devotion and influence them to leave the group. I began to make a thorough study of the "cult mind control" phenomena and continue to today. In 1986 I began working with deprogrammers and exit counselors regarding the influence of a wide variety of groups and sects. I have since become a professional consultant in this arena of new religious movements, controversial therapies and the use of thought reform in such activities. The prosecutors were probably led to seek out negative information I may have had about Mormons, Catholics, "Moonies," Hare Krishnas and the CUT in order to "prove" that I was anti-religion, no matter what it was. I am a Catholic, I have been hired and consulted several times by Mormons, and I do not have anything against the other three groups mentioned in terms of their beliefs. How a person is manipulated or deceived into believing anything is my concern. My religious persuasion does not play a role in my work with people under controversial influences. Although I had in a small percentage of my cases over a four year period worked with security teams, I ceased such activity altogether in 1992. I no longer work with families who elect to restrain a "cult" member at any time during an intervention.

**One year (1992) after his arrest (1991), he attests that “I no longer work with families who elect to restrain a ‘cult’ member at any time during an intervention.”**

# Joe Szimhart Deprogramming Attempts in Australia

[Home](#) | [Intro](#) | [Definitions](#) | [Information About New Religions](#) | [Contact](#)

## CultAware Unzipped

Reporting on the Anti Religious  
Movement in Australia in the  
interests of Freedom of Belief.

### Reports from Victims

- [Lucy](#)  
The attempted deprogramming of a 29 year old woman; Lucy was held against her will while deprogrammer Cyril Vosper viciously berated her. After 12 hours the police were alerted and arrived on the scene. Vosper narrowly escaped criminal charges in Australia.
- [Jacinta](#)  
Jacinta was driven in a blacked out van to a holiday home and held against her will while ~~Joe Szimhart~~, Patrick Ryan, Cyril Vosper and two other female deprogrammers attempted to coerce her from her chosen faith.
- [Sara](#)  
Sara became aware of covert setups to have her "exit counselled" from her religion. She then sought legal assistance to stop this invasion of her privacy and infringement of her rights to freedom of religion.
- [Andrew](#)  
Andrew discovered CultAware hate propaganda in his family home and took steps to expose CultAware's invasion of his privacy.

JUNE 1999:

The CultAware organization ceased business.

This is statement about Cult Aware as found on their website. This is about the four deprogrammers, including Joe Szimhart, who entered the country years after the abusive deprogramming attempts were said to have stopped in the United States.

away. Some remain to become good examples of organized bigotry.

Largely deprogrammers have come into Australia from the USA charging enormous fees and expenses to kidnap, falsely imprison and generally abuse a targeted person's [rights to religious freedom](#) and belief; not to mention endangering their physical and emotional well being. Often family and personal relationships are destroyed by deprogrammers and their agents.

Deprogramming as a practice was developed in the USA by several mental health professionals and anti religious extremists; as for example [Margaret Singer](#). Although the justifying theory on which deprogramming was developed has since been [discredited](#) it still finds popularity with some in Australia.

In 1996 some three years after deprogramming reportedly ceased , four deprogrammers entered Australia from overseas to attempt a *forced intervention* or deprogramming of a young man in Ipswich Queensland. Deprogramming is still current despite statements to the contrary.

Known cases of either deprogramming or exit counselling attempts can be reported to [Victims of CultAware](#). (Any known criminal act should be reported as soon as possible to the police in the locality where the incident occurred.)

Reported cases of deprogramming attempts by CultAware members and associates are being catalogued on this site and can be viewed [here](#).

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# CultAware Unzipped

Examining the Anti  
Religious Movement in  
Australia in the interests  
of Freedom of Belief.

## Report / Statement

### Statement of *Jacinta* :

Further to an affidavit I signed on January 10, 1992, this statement gives some details pertaining to the deprogrammers involved in the kidnapping and attempted deprogramming of myself in September 1991.

The ringleader was Joe (though he called himself by the name "Peter"). He is an ex-member of the Church Universal and Triumphant, is tall (height approx. 6 feet) has dark hair, aged late thirties/early fourties and is of slight to normal build. I sighted a ADA County Jail photograph of Joseph Szimhart on April 18, 1993 and I testify that he is the deprogrammer referred to here.



Joe travelled to Australia from the United States with Pat (who called himself "Tom"). Pat is an ex-member of TM (Transcendental Meditation). He is of normal height (approx. 5'9") and build, has a receding hairline and is around the same age as Joe. I sighted several photographs of Pat Ryan in April 1993 and saw him recently in Sydney outside a courtroom in the Downing Court building and I testify that this is the deprogrammer referred to here.

The third American involved used the pseudonym "Sara". She is an ex-member of The Way International, being deprogrammed out of this group by her parents. She has a Southern American accent and indeed back in 1991 she was based in Texas but was thinking to move up to Boston since most of her cases involved members of the Boston Church of Christ. She expressed interest in returning to Australia to "counsel" members of the affiliated Churches of Christ here. "Sara" was slightly overweight and had blond hair. I recently sighted a photo of Mary Chrnaloger who appeared in court in America together with Joe Szimhart concerning the illegal restraint and deprogramming of a mother of four children. While the quality of the photo was not good the features of this woman are consistent with those of "Sara". She came to Australia for my case about a week before I was kidnapped (ie end of August 1991) to help set up the house where I was held against my will and to glean information from my mother about myself and my family relationships. She left Australia on Saturday, September 14, 1991.

## Jacinta's Statement Continued...

The British deprogrammer was Jane Allison (who called herself "Liz"), an ex-Unification Church member, as mentioned (*sic*) my earlier statement. In 1991, she and her mother had a strong connection with an "anticult" organization based in the U.K. called F.A.I.R. and it was through this connection that she became involved in my illegal restraint. She arrived in Australia a day or two before my kidnapping and left on Friday September 20, 1991.

There was an Australian man involved in my kidnapping and deprogramming who called himself "Ron". He is an ex-Scientologist, is quite short (approx. 5'6") and his age is about early fifties. I have seen quite old photos of Cyril Vosper and I believe him to be the same person as "Ron" though I would like to see a recent photo to be absolutely sure.

Finally, there was an Australian lady involved who called herself "Sylvia". She was about in her late forties and is a teacher by profession.

"Sara", Jane, "Ron" and "Sylvia" were physically present during my abduction from my parents' home on September 6, 1991. Jane told me of how she had prevented one person in a similar situation from escaping because of her abilities in martial arts. This was an implied threat to myself not to resist being taken away. When I first entered my parents' house, she was hiding in one part of the house, and "Ron" and "Sylvia" were hiding in the other side of the house, in case I made a dash through the house to escape. The four of them accompanied me in the back of a van with blackened-out windows, two positioned either side at the back of the front seat. They asked me to lie down in the middle of the back of the van en route to the rented holiday home in Mornington where I was illegally restrained for nine days.

Every night during my stay there, I was guarded by my mother who slept in the same room with me on the floor, by Jane who slept on the floor just outside my bedroom in the ensuite area, and then for the first four days by "Ron" who slept the other side of the ensuite door which led out to the rest of the house. This door had been fitted with a hook and eye lock expressly for the time of my stay.

Joe Szimhart and Pat Ryan were on stand-by to receive a call on Friday night to come to Australia. They arrived on Sunday September 6, 1991 and left late evening Saturday September 14, 1991.

For the first 8 days of my captivity in this house, I was never left alone except for about an hour every morning while I was getting up. Even then my bedroom and ensuite area was always watched by at least one of the deprogrammers. Most of the "counselling" took place in the main living room of the house which had a whole wall of windows and one door out onto a courtyard. There was always at least one deprogrammer between me and this door out onto the courtyard at all times. Usually Joe Szimhart, Pat Ryan, Jane Allison and "Sara" were in this room with me. The first counselling sessions were actually held in my bedroom which had the windows boarded up (the adjoining bathroom also had its window boarded up). However on Saturday September 7, 1991, the day after I arrived, I ran from this bedroom saying I did not want to hear anything that they wanted to tell me and that I just wanted to talk to my family (this is the reason I had come from Sydney to Melbourne the day before). "Sara" called out to "Ron" who ran to the door leading out to the courtyard in case I tried to escape.

During the period of my illegal restraint in this house, my mother had a visit from Mrs. Joan McClelland who recently co-founded with her husband the "Cultaware" group in New South Wales. My mother later explained that Joan McClelland had been the one to put her in touch with the Cult Awareness Network (CAN) in the United States. It was through this connection provided by Joan McClelland that my parents came to organise my illegal restraint and unsought-for "provision of information and resources for 'affected' individuals" - the professed aims of "Cultaware" - for a five figure sum.

I am writing this statement some time after the episode in question because of the recent increase in "cult education" which in my case was not voluntarily sought-for. Individuals with connections to the Cult Awareness Network in the U.S. and the F.A.I.R. group in the U.K. have entered Australia recently, expressly for involuntarily "exit counselling" as described above.

Signed:

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Another international deprogramming attempt  
in Scotland by Joe Szimhart along with CAN  
Member and CIA MK- Ultra Project  
Brainwashing Expert, Louis Jolyon West



New conversation



My groups



Recent groups



Favorite groups



Starred conversations

alt.religion.scientology



Conversations

99+



About



to

In a 1990 newspaper article, Joseph Szimhart, deprogrammer in the Cult Awareness Network stable of hired kidnapers, boasted of having conducted some 25 deprogrammings. Szimhart admitted to getting most of his referrals directly through CAN, and was usually accompanied by deprogrammers Joe Kelly and Patrick Ryan, both linked with the organization for many years.

Szimhart was arrested in 1991 following the failed kidnapping and deprogramming of an adult woman, Laverne Collins Macchio, a member of the Church Universal and Triumphant, and again in January 1992 on charges of aiding and abetting another kidnapping.

He worked with CAN member and psychiatrist Louis Jolyon West in the kidnapping and attempted deprogramming of Viscount Reidhaven, eldest son of Britain's Earl of Seafield. The attempt, for which the Earl paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to Szimhart and West, failed.

From an article in the Daily Record, Glasgow, Scotland by David Thompson, June 30, 1998: “*The Living Proof We Can’t Let Peers Lord it Over Us.*”

"The family became so concerned that it had him removed from the cult with the help of former members of the SAS.

"The effects of what transpired in the cult are still with him. He is seeking professional help. He very much regrets what happened."

After studying a medical report, magistrates gave Reidhaven a conditional discharge for a year and ordered him to pay pounds 50 costs. He was driven away by his father.

After he came under the spell of a Sufi Moslem guru Reidhaven's affairs were placed in the hands of a curator appointed by a Scots court.

He announced he was going to pay cult leader Mohammed Ali -a former record company executive and brother-in-law to 60s pop star Cat Stevens - pounds 70,000 a year to run his Strathspey estate. He had already lavished thousands of pounds, a Range Rover and Savile Row suits on cult leaders.

His worried father hired a team of former SAS men to get his son away from the cult, then flew in de- programming experts from the US.

The SAS team then moved into Reidhaven's Kent mansion which was a complete white-wash with concrete, concrete, steel and timber front



Photo illustration: Soohye Cho/The Intercept; Photos: Getty Images



BECOME  
A MEMBER

# INSIDE THE ARCHIVE OF AN LSD RESEARCHER WITH TIES TO THE CIA'S MKULTRA MIND CONTROL PROJECT

Louis Jolyon West seems to have used chemicals and hypnosis liberally in his medical practice, possibly leading to the death of a child and the execution of an innocent man.



Tom O'Neill, Dan Piepenbring

November 24 2019, 6:00 a.m.

[Click here for Full Issue of EIR Volume 18, Number 34, September 6, 1991](#)

# Dr. L. Jolyon West: the LSD cult behind the Cult Awareness Network

by an EIR Investigative Team

The sixties are back! Teens in suburbia are corroding their brain cells with LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), taking trips into psychosis. *EIR* has learned that the same people who made the LSD culture possible 20 years ago are now leading activists in the Cult Awareness Network.

The *Washington Post* on Aug. 21 reported an increase in LSD use among white, middle-class suburban teens, describing an LSD party which was attended by a *Post* reporter, who was allowed in on the condition that the teenagers would only be identified by their first initials. Reporter Laura Blumenfeld calls these teens the "golden children," "90s-60s hybrids," and romanticizes the return to the psychedelic heyday of the 1960s. The spaced-out children say they can see God, and see roses bloom and dance before their very eyes, Blumenfeld

aroused the ire of the dope lobby. CAN spends so much time and money attacking LaRouche and his associates, because its leading personalities helped *create* the drug-rock culture in the first place.

## **The Nazi doctors**

The Cult Awareness Network bestowed its highest honor, the Leo J. Ryan award, on Dr. Louis Jolyon West in 1989, for "extraordinary courage, tenacity and perseverance in the battle against tyranny over the mind of man," yet West's entire career has been to manipulate and destroy minds. West is an advisory board member of the American Family Foundation, the mother organization of CAN, and he lectures frequently to CAN conferences. He is held in reverence by

**CAN cannot plead ignorance as to who West is. As early as 1977, Dr. West was exposed on the front page of the *New York Times* as being funded by the CIA to perform LSD experiments as part of the MK-Ultra project. In his book *In Search for the Manchurian Candidate*, John Marks also fingered West as being among the pioneers of LSD and mind-control experiments funded by the CIA. CAN's decision to honor West exposes the true nature of the organization.**

**West got his start in psycho-behaviorist research experiments with the pool of returning Korean War veterans, many traumatized by combat. As the Air Force chief of psychiatry at Lackland Air Force Base from 1952-56, West put these veterans, among them former prisoners of war, under intense study like so many white mice. He published several papers detailing his studies of Air Force POWs and presented an overview of his work in 1957 entitled, "U.S. Air Force Prisoners of the Chinese Communist Methods of Forceful Indoc-trination: Observations and Interviews."**



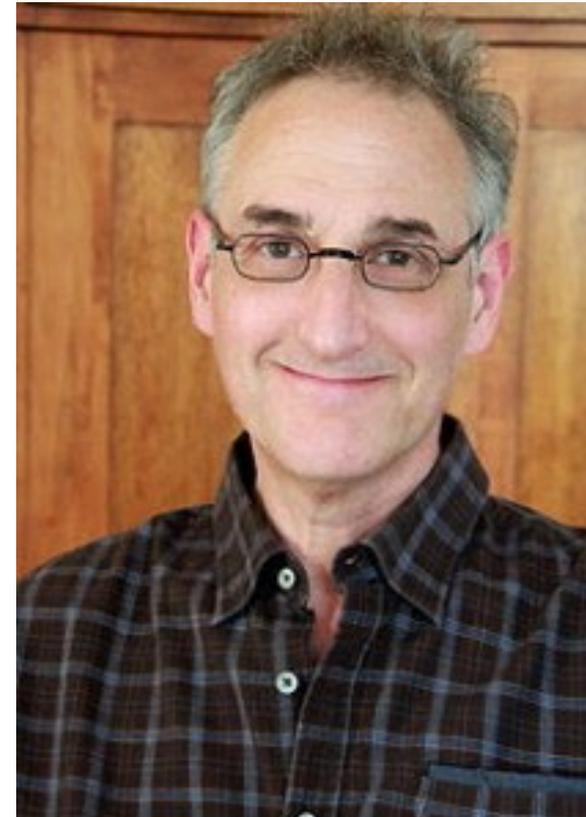
**West was a pioneer in bringing psychiatry into the evaluation of criminal behavior and using such psychiatric expertise as testimony in criminal trials. He was an “expert witness” for several court cases, including the Patty Hearst kidnaping case and the case of Jack Ruby. His job was to perpetrate the myth of the deranged individual or “lone assassin,” and cover up the political nature of these cases.**

**Although a jury thought the evidence was insufficient to find Ruby either insane or suffering from brain damage, West interviewed Ruby after the guilty verdict and found Ruby in a paranoid state suffering from hallucinations and suicidal tendencies. West asserted that Ruby was truly mentally ill, because he rejected West’s repeated suggestions that he was. “The true malingerer usually grasps eagerly at such an explanation,” West concluded. Since Ruby claimed to be sane, he obviously was not!**

Hassan has been assisting people exit destructive cults since 1976 as an [exit counselor](#).<sup>[23]</sup> Hassan's methods have changed over time, and Hassan has been outspoken against involuntary [deprogramming](#) since 1980.<sup>[14][24]</sup> In *Combatting Cult Mind Control*, he stated that "the non-coercive approach will not work in every case, it has proved to be the option most families prefer. Forcible intervention can be kept as a last resort if all other attempts fail."<sup>[25]</sup> In 1995, [Michael Langone](#) questioned Hassan's "humanistic counseling approach." Langone suggested that Hassan's intervention method still "runs the risk of imposing clarity, however subtly" and "thereby manipulating the client."<sup>[26]</sup>

# Steve Hassan

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# Legal Declaration (1979) of Steve Hassan's Victim :

**(6 months before Hassan decided to speak out against deprogramming methods he employed and participated in)**

## Arthur Roselle

DECLARATION OF ARTHUR ROSELLE

I, ARTHUR ROSELLE, do hereby declare and state:

1. My date of birth is March 27, 1949. I have two boys, six and seven years of age. My wife and I are divorced. I currently am employed as a mortgage banker. I reside at 32308 Concord Drive, Apartment D, Madison Heights, Michigan, 48071. My telephone number is (313) 588-7549. I frequently use "Skip" as a nickname.

2. I was a member of the Unification Church from 1974 to 1979. During 1976, while an adult member of the Unification Church, I was the victim of a forcible kidnapping in Utica, Michigan. Steven Hassan, aided, abetted and conspired in my kidnapping and in my subsequent false imprisonment. Several other men also took part in these crimes. The purpose of my kidnapping and false imprisonment was to break my faith in my religious beliefs and thereby "deprogram me." The kidnapers, including Steven Hassan, physically held me captive during the first week of the kidnapping and false imprisonment. I finally managed to escape at the end of the second week.

3. When I first tried to escape from my kidnapers, they seized my arms and threw me down to the floor. This caused me to

hit the tile floor with my chin and cheek. As a result, I received a cut on the inside of my lower lip and bruises on my chin and right cheek bone. My hands and feet were then tied and I was carried into a small room and placed on a cot. Professional deprogrammers Steven Hassan and Ellen Lloyd then began working in shifts to forcibly deprogram me away from my chosen religious beliefs.

4. During the entire first three days of my kidnapping and false imprisonment, I was tied up. Steven Hassan and Ellen Lloyd took shifts deprogramming me so that I was not allowed to sleep.

5. When the deprogramming started, I decided not to speak or eat. After two days of not speaking or eating, Steven Hassan threatened to subject me to a series of shots.

6. During the first three days of my kidnapping and false imprisonment, Steven Hassan insulted me and humiliated me as a person. I felt like a captured animal in a zoo.

7. After the first three days of my kidnapping and false imprisonment, the circulation in my hands was cut off because my hands had been tightly tied behind my back for the entire time. Both of my hands were badly swollen and were the color of a bruise.

8. During the first three days, I was always escorted to

the bathroom while my hands were still bound and tied. I was not washed or shaved. With help, I was able to urinate into a pot. Due to the embarrassment of being watched at all times, I did not allow myself to defecate.

9. Steven Hassan frequently asked me to deny the authenticity of my religious beliefs during the time I was being held against my will.

10. On July 7, 1979, I executed a three page affidavit concerning my kidnapping and false imprisonment. I swore the contents of this affidavit to be true before Mary Beth Pender, a notary public in Kalkaska County, Michigan. A copy of the affidavit is attached to this declaration and is incorporated herein.

11. In the first part of September 1991, my father asked me to meet with him and my mother. My father gave me a letter and other documents that had been mailed to him by Steven Hassan. Hassan asked them to forward the letter and documents to me. Attached to the letter was a copy of Steven Hassan's book, Combatting Cult Mind Control, a written note from him and an affidavit for me to sign and have notarized. A copy of the letter, a copy of the cover of the book, a copy of the note and a copy of the unsigned affidavit are attached to this declaration are are incorporated herein.

12. Steven Hassan's letter is dated September 6, 1991. In the letter, Steven Hassan wrote that he was named in a \$12,000,000.00 law suit because of his appearance on the Sally Jessy Raphael television program. He wrote in the letter that it is asserted in the lawsuit that he is a criminal who kidnaps, beats and tortures cultists. He then wrote that my written affidavit was being used as proof of these charges.

13. Steven Hassan's letter then states, "I desperately need your help. I am sending along two copies of my book and a press kit. I am still very involved in helping people to move on with their lives. Please help me. The sooner you can write an affidavit (or sign the proposed one) the better off I'll be. Hope to hear from you soon. Steve"

14. The note attached to the proposed affidavit states in part, "While I prefer that you write your own - in your own words, you could sign and notarize this and it would fill the need. Thanks. SH."

15. The proposed affidavit that Steven Hassan wants me to sign is not truthful. It has many false statements, including quotes as follows, "...there was never any time that Mr. Hassan kidnapped me, beat me, sleep-deprived me, threatened to inject me with a series of shots, or treated me unkindly or inhumanely. Mr. Hassan...treated me with compassion and integrity.

...always was there respectful treatment."

16. The rest of the proposed affidavit attempts to put Steven Hassan into a favorable light and reads in part, "I have recently come to learn that Mr. Hassan has written the definitive critically acclaimed book entitled Combatting Cult Mind Control (Park Street Press, 1988,90) and has ceased any participation in involuntary interventions of cult victims of any kind shortly after my experience in 1976 and today advocates only non-coercive legal interventions."

17. The original affidavit I swore to in 1979 is completely truthful and accurate. Steven Hassan aided, abetted and conspired with the others to kidnap and falsely imprison me. He is guilty of all of the acts of the other co-conspirators.

18. Steven Hassan now wants me to commit perjury by falsely signing, attesting and swearing that his proposed affidavit is true. He wants me to commit perjury so that he can use a false affidavit in court to help his current legal case. I will not do this. His written letter stated that he "desparately" needed my help and asked me to "please" help him. He wrote that the "sooner" I signed the proposed affadavit the better off he would be. He also indicated that if I signed and notarized the proposed affidavit that "it would fill the need."

19. I will not sign Steven Hassan's prepared affidavit nor will I prepare an affidavit that is similar to it. I feel that the proposed affidavit is an attempt by Steven Hassan to tell me what he wants me to swear to as true in the event I wrote a new affidavit using my own words. My original affidavit is true and correct. I will not do what Steven Hassan wants me to do because I would be committing the crime of perjury. I feel that Steven Hassan is guilty of subornation of perjury and for using the U.S. mails for an illegal purpose. I desire to have him criminally prosecuted by the appropriate authorities for these criminal acts.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of Michigan and under the laws of the United States that the statements in this declaration are true and correct.

Signed this 8th day of November 1991, in OAKLAND County, State of Michigan.

Arthur Roselle  
ARTHUR ROSELLE

Dennis C. Tomczyk  
DENNIS C. TOMCZYK  
Notary Public, Wayne County, Michigan  
Acting in Oakland County  
My Commission Expires January 9, 1995

Steve Hassan's Order to Show Cause from the  
Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health  
and Human Service Professionals in the State  
of Massachusetts



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

GREGORY BIALECKI  
SECRETARY OF HOUSING  
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF PROSECUTIONS  
Division of Professional Licensure  
1000 Washington Street • Boston • Massachusetts • 02118

BARBARA ANTHONY  
UNDERSECRETARY OF OFFICE  
OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND  
BUSINESS REGULATION

MARK R. KMETZ  
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

By First Class Mail and Certified Mail Nos. 7011 2970 0002 0059 9792 & 7011 2970 0002 0059  
9808 & 7011 2970 0002 0059 9815(return receipt requested)

April 20, 2012

FILE COPY

Steven A. Hassan  
c/o Freedom of Mind Resource Center, Inc.  
PO Box 45223 PO Box 686 18 Beecher Place  
Somerville, MA 02145 and Newton, MA 02456 and Newton, MA 02459

RE: In the Matter of Steven A. Hassan  
Docket No. MH-12-014

Dear Mr. Hassan:

The Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health Professionals and Human Service Professionals has investigated the above-referenced complaint against you. For the reasons set forth in the attached Order To Show Cause the Division of Professional Licensure ("Division") is proposing to suspend, revoke or impose other discipline against your license to practice in the Allied Health profession (license #MH-820-CC).

This action is subject to the adjudicatory provisions of M.G.L. c.30A and will be governed by the Standard Adjudicatory Rules of Practice and Procedure, 801 CMR 1.01 et seq. You have a right to request an adjudicatory hearing by filing a request for hearing within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of the Order To Show Cause. You must also submit an answer within twenty-one (21) days to the Order To Show Cause which meets the requirements of 801 CMR 1.01 (6) (d) of the Adjudicatory Rules. The request for a hearing and answer must be filed with the Administrative Hearings Officer, Division of Professional Licensure, 1000 Washington Street, Suite 710, Boston, MA 02118. If you are represented by counsel in this matter, all communications with the Division should be made through your counsel.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE PROSECUTING COUNSEL, JESSICA UHING-LUEDDE, AT (617) 727-9717.**

Sincerely,

Amy Riordan  
Administrative Assistant II  
e-mail: Amy.Riordan@state.ma.us





certain rights, including, but not limited to, the rights: to be represented by counsel or another representative, to call and examine witnesses, to cross-examine witnesses who testify against you, to introduce evidence, and to argue in support of your position.

The Board will make an audio recording of any hearing conducted in this matter. If you wish to appeal a final decision of the Board, you must supply a reviewing court with a "proper record" of the proceeding, which may include a written transcript. *New Bedford Gas and Light Co. v. Board of Assessors of Dartmouth*, 368 Mass. 745, 749-750 (1975). If you wish to provide for a written transcript, you must arrange and pay for a stenographer to be present at any hearing. If a written transcript is prepared at your request, then said transcript shall also be provided to the Board, at your expense, for inclusion in the record. G.L. c. 30A, §11(6); 801 CMR 1.01(10)(k); 801 CMR 1.01 10(i).

Your failure to submit a written request for a hearing within 21 days of receipt of this Order to Show Cause *shall constitute a waiver of the right to a hearing* on the allegations herein and on any Board disciplinary action. Your failure to submit an Answer to this Order to Show Cause within 21 days of receipt of this Order to Show Cause *shall result in the entry of default* in this matter.

If you are defaulted, the Board may enter a Final Decision and Order that assumes the truth of the allegations in this Order to Show Cause, and may revoke, suspend, or take other disciplinary action against your license to practice the profession in Massachusetts or any right to renew your license.

Any written request for a hearing and your Answer to this Order to Show Cause, as well as any future pleadings related to the captioned matter, shall be submitted to:

Hearings Officer  
Division of Professional Licensure  
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710  
Boston, MA 02118

A copy of any written request for a hearing and a copy of your Answer, as well as copies of all future pleadings related to the captioned matter, shall be provided to Prosecuting Counsel. Prosecuting Counsel for this matter is:

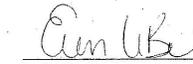
Jessica Uhing-Luedde, Esq.  
Prosecuting Counsel  
Division of Professional Licensure  
Office of Prosecutions  
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710  
Boston, MA 02118

You or your representative may examine Board records relative to this case prior to the date of the hearing during regular business hours at the office of the Prosecuting

Counsel. If you elect to undertake such an examination, then please contact Prosecuting Counsel in advance at (617) 727-9717 to schedule a time that is mutually convenient.

Dated: 4/18/12

BOARD OF REGISTRATION  
OF ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH  
PROFESSIONS,

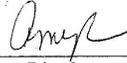


Erin LeBel  
Executive Director

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Amy Riordan, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing "***Order To Show Cause***" was served upon the Respondent, Steven A. Hassan, at this address of record: c/o Freedom of Mind Resource Center, Inc., PO Box 45223, Somerville, MA 02145 and these RMV (Registry of Motor Vehicles) addresses of record: PO Box 686, Newton, MA 02456 and 18 Beecher Place, Newton, MA 02459 by first class mail and certified mail nos. 7011 2970 0002 0059 9792 & 7011 2970 0002 0059 9808 & 7011 2970 0002 0059 9815, return receipt requested, and the Attorney of record: Philip E. Murray, Jr., Murray, Kelly & Bertrand, P.C., 300 Trade Center – Suite 2700, Woburn, MA 01801, by first class mail, postage prepaid.

This 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012.



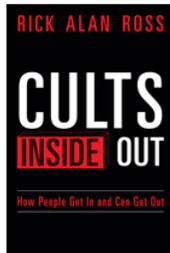
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Riordan  
Administrative Assistant II

While the cult deprogrammers have always been co-abusers in the work they do, here are a few ways they are still connected, or **not** connected as is the case with Steve Hassan and Rick Ross.

Rick Ross is an open critic of Steve Hassan and has shared ethics concerns on his website about him.

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- [Contact Us](#)
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- [Today's Cult Headlines](#)
- [Mind Control](#)
- [Cult News.com Weblog](#)
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- [Books](#)
- [Educational DVDs](#)
- [Help Us](#)



[CEI Educational DVDs](#)

## Disclaimer regarding Steve Hassan

### The Cult Education Institute of New Jersey/May 2013

The inclusion of news articles within the Cult Education Institute of New Jersey (CEI) archives, which mention and/or quote Steve Hassan in no way suggests that CEI recognizes him in any professional capacity.

News articles that mention Steve Hassan have been archived for historical purposes only due to the information they contain about controversial groups, movements and/or leaders.

CEI does not recommend Steve Hassan.

CEI has received serious complaints about Steve Hassan concerning his fees. Steve Hassan does not publicly disclose his fee schedule, but according to complaints he has charged fees varying from \$250.00 per hour or \$2,500.00 per day to \$500.00 per hour or \$5,000.00 per day. This does not include Steve Hassan's expenses, which according to complaints can be quite substantial.

Steve Hassan has charged families tens of thousands of dollars and provided questionable results. One family that recently complained about Steve Hassan cited total fees charged of almost \$50,000.00 and said that the very expensive intervention effort ended in failure.

Dr. Cathleen Mann, who holds a doctorate in psychology and has been a licensed counselor in the state of Colorado since 1994 points out, "Nowhere does Hassan provide a base rate and/or any type or accepted statistical method defining his results..."

Steve Hassan has at times suggested to potential clients that they purchase a preliminary report based upon what he calls his "BITE" model. These "BITE reports" can potentially cost thousands of dollars.

Steve Hassan runs a [for-profit corporation](#) called "Freedom of Mind." Mr. Hassan is listed as the corporate agent for that business as well as its president and treasurer.

CEI does not recommend "Freedom of Mind" as a resource.

CEI also does not list or recommend Steve Hassan's books.

To better understand why Steve Hassan's books are not recommended by CEI [read this detailed review](#) of his most recently self-published book titled "Freedom of Mind."

Steve Hassan's cult intervention methodology has historically raised concerns since its inception. The book "Recovery from Cults" (W.W. Norton & Co. pp. 174-175) edited by Dr. Michael Langone states the following:

"Calling his approach 'strategic intervention [sic] therapy,' Hassan (1988) stresses that, although he too tries to communicate a body of information to cultists and to help them think independently, he also does formal counseling. As with many humanistic counseling approaches, Hassan's runs the risk of imposing clarity, however subtly, on the framework's foundational ambiguity and thereby manipulating the client."

CEI has also learned that Steve Hassan has had dual-relationships with his counseling clients. That is, clients that have seen Steve Hassan for counseling may also do professional cult intervention work with him.

Professionals in the field of cultic studies have also expressed concerns regarding Steve Hassan's use of hypnosis and Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP).

Based upon complaints and the concerns expressed about Steve Hassan CEI does not recommend Steve Hassan for counseling, intervention work or any other form of professional consultation.

Note: From time to time the Cult Education Institute receives complaints and reports of other concerns expressed about cult intervention practitioners. The institute makes every effort to follow up on those reports and relay them to the individuals involved for their response. Steve Hassan is the only deprogrammer/exit-counselor about whom CEI has received numerous and consistent complaints over a period of years involving matters of cult intervention methods, fees, and professional ethics.

**To see more documents/articles regarding this group/organization/subject [click here](#).**

- [All articles A-Z](#)
- [General Information](#)
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- 
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  - [Political Groups](#)
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  - [Sci-Fi/UFO Groups](#)
  - [Theosophy Groups](#)
  - [Therapy / Counseling](#)
  - [Other Groups on File](#)

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You will find many court documents with one or two of their names listed.

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. How many to Hassan? ←

3 A. I'd say anywhere between three or four dozen.

4 Q. Galon Kelly, have you made any referrals to

5 him?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Joe Alexander?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Rick Ross?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. How many referrals have you made to

12 deprogrammer Rick Ross? ✓

13 A. A dozen or less.

14 Q. When have you made referrals to Mr. Ross?

15 A. Not for quite a while.

16 Q. You know that Ross is a convicted felon?

17 A. No, I don't know that.

18 Q. You've heard that, haven't you?

19 A. I've seen a Membership News that alleged that

20 kind of thing. It alleged a lot of things that seem

21 ridiculous to me.

22 Q. Did you ever try to find out to see if Rick

23 Ross was a convicted felon?

24 A. No.

“Finally, as one more piece of evidence illustrating the CAN deprogramming referral connection, Marty Butz, a staff member at CAN during the early 1990s, under oath estimated he had personally made approximately 400 -500 deprogramming referrals for persons who called CAN [[see Document 22](#)]. And he referred one NRM member who called CAN pretending to be ignorant of a given NRM but inquiring about it to a woman who said she could provide a list of deprogrammers (including the "classic rescuers": Joe Szimhart, Dave Clark, Randall Burkey, Steve Hassan, Rick Ross, and Carol Giambalvo) and their expected fees (\$2,000 - \$10,000) [[29](#)].”

<https://www.cesnur.org/2001/CAN.htm#Anchor-13397>

**Deposition of Marty Butz in *Cynthia Kissler vs. The Chicago Crusader et al.* October 26, 1994. County of Cook, Illinois. Case No. 92. L 08593. See also Affidavit of Allen T. Stanfield, September 20, 1984. County of McLean, Illinois**

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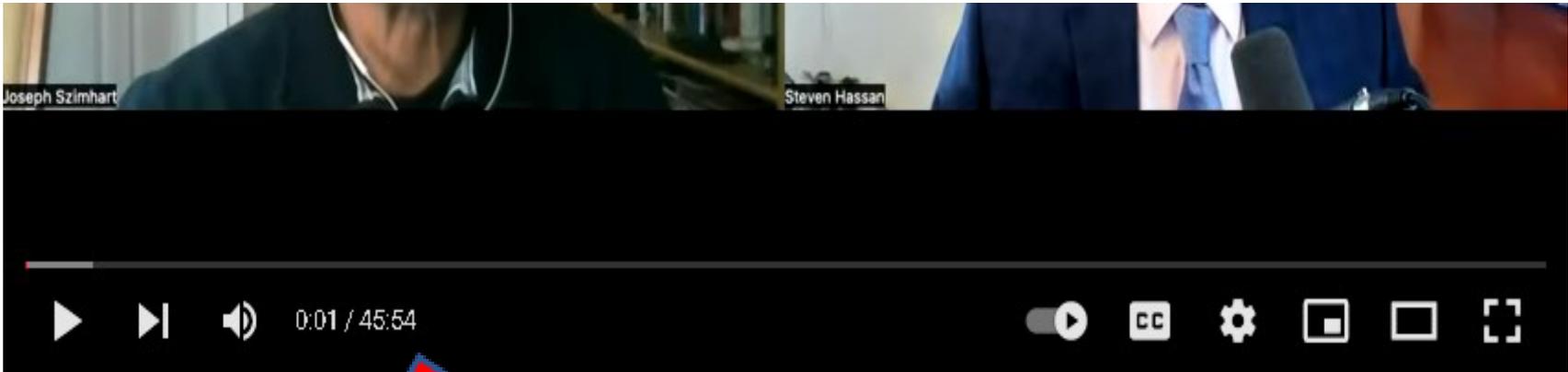
Marty Butz testifying to how many referrals were given to Rick Ross from the former Cult Awareness Network.

<https://www.cesnur.org/2001/CAN.htm#Anchor-13397>

**Deposition of Marty Butz in *Cynthia Kisser vs. The Chicago Crusader et al.* October 26, 1994. County of Cook, Illinois. Case No. 92. L 08593. See also Affidavit of Allen T. Stanfield, September 20, 1984. County of McLean, Illinois**

Currently, Steve Hassan and Joe Szimhart are still colleagues and complimentary of one another. They reminisce about the times they worked together in the 80s, at the height of their physical abuse, false imprisonment, psychological abuse, torture tactics and kidnapping of victims. To this day, Hassan offers his intervention services which includes these forced-interventions on children and adult children by parents.

Now Joe Szimhart is a “cult information specialist”.



Traditionalism, Religious Fundamentalism, and Politics with Joe Szimhart

 Freedom of Mind Resource Center  
12.8K subscribers [Subscribe](#) [25](#) [Share](#) [Save](#) [...](#)

472 views Apr 21, 2022

In this episode, I interview Joe Szimhart. Joe is a cult information specialist I have known for decades. He is also an author and knows a great deal about psychology. Joe appears in the unearthed 1986 former member video I recently shared as a former CUT and Agni Yoga member. Like me, Joe is a former cult member who uses his experience to help others understand and reevaluate destructive cults. Joe and I talk about current events and cult behaviors we recognize all over the world. We talk about Clarence Thomas's wife Ginni, her deprogrammer Kevin Garvey, Vladimir Putin, and the ideology that binds them.

\*\*\*\*\*



Traditionalism, Religious Fundamentalism, and Politics with Joe Szimhart

0:04 I'm Dr. Stephen Hassan and welcome to the influence continuum  
0:06 I am absolutely honored to have an old colleague and friend Joseph Szimhart  
0:15 start over I'm honored to have an old colleague and friend Joseph Szimhart  
0:21 with me here today uh Joe and I go back to what 1986 Joe  
0:28 yes in fact you were you spoke in the famous video that's gone viral  
0:35 of the support group meeting uh in Kansas city in 1986 where Jimmy Thomas  
0:41 spoke about being in in life spring in fact thank you for

English (auto-generated)

0:02  
hello i'm dr stephen hassan and welcome to the influence continuum  
0:08  
i am absolutely honored to have an old colleague and friend joseph szimhart  
0:15  
start over i'm honored to have an old colleague and friend joseph szimhart  
0:21  
with me here today uh joe and i go back to what 1986 joe  
0:28  
yes in fact you were you spoke in the famous video that's gone viral  
0:35  
of the support group meeting uh in kansas city in 1986 where jimmy thomas  
0:41  
spoke about being in in life spring in fact thank you for pointing out to me it was not 1989 it was 1986.  
0:50  
and you said i'll never forget it it was my first conference yeah  
0:55  
right but uh joe for our listeners um you know let me just say that i have  
1:02  
such a high regard for your intelligence you're an avid reader and reviewer of  
1:08  
books your knowledge is encyclopedic um and i wanted to ask you to do this

April 21, 2022, Steve Hassan interviews Joe Szimhart. They clearly still have a working relationship. Hassan references their 37-year connection.

Steve Hassan has also been connected with a convicted pedophile, molester and fugitive, Anton Hein, who runs the website [ApologeticsIndex.org](http://ApologeticsIndex.org).

# Anton Hein Pedophile and Current Warrant for his Arrest

https://apps.sdsheriff.net/warrant/waarDetail.aspx?eRECD\_NBR=q9SFFpxBgBC9JBXBan0dXgp%2b33wND5wFuSFRigUB

## WARRANT TIPS

The information contained in this web site may not be current and should not be relied upon for arrest or any other purpose.

### WANTED PERSON

<b>Last:</b> HEIN	<b>Weight:</b> 248 lbs.
<b>First:</b> ANTON	<b>Height:</b> 5' 11"
<b>Middle:</b> WILLEM	<b>Eyes:</b> Blue
<b>Date of Birth:</b> 08/14/57	<b>Hair:</b> Brown
<b>Sex:</b> Male	<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b> White

### WARRANT

<b>Last address:</b> SAN DIEGO , CA	<b>Date of Issue:</b> 09/25/1996
<b>Warrant Nbr:</b> SCD106837-000	<b>Bail Amount:</b> No Bail
<b>Warrant Type:</b> Arrest	<b>Court of Issue:</b> San Diego Superior
<b>Primary Charge:</b> PC288(A)	<b>Court Appearance:</b> Mandatory
<b>Type of Crime:</b> Felony	

## Full Disclosure

### A Note About This Page:

The information below was posted several years ago in an effort to explain why I (the co-publisher of Apologetics Index), in 1995, plea-bargained to a criminal charge in the USA.

Posting the information allowed me an opportunity to provide my side of the story. In posting this information I am not in any way blaming anybody but myself.

While the post below goes into more detail, painting a fuller picture, here are the facts:

- In 1994 I, Anton Hein, was charged with a serious crime: that of molesting my 13-year-old niece.
  - The lewd act I plead guilty to is applying sperm-killing cream at the request and insistence of my niece, after she had had intercourse with a boy
  - Regardless of the wider context described below, I blame no one but myself
- In 1995 I accepted a pleabargain, as a result of which I spent 6 months in a California jail
- I served my sentence.
  - I was released from jail in January, 1996.
  - Under the terms of my pleabargain I was to complete 3 years of probation.
- In July 1996 I received written permission to visit my parents in Amsterdam, Netherlands in order to help them cope with their grief after my younger sister suddenly died from complications of have a stillborn baby removed.
- In Amsterdam, I immediately notified the authorities of my presence and legal status.
  - I presented them the legal paperwork covering my case.
  - In their opinion I had not committed a crime.
  - I was told that I was free to remain in the Netherlands -- and in fact was urged by them do so.
- Officers of the Amsterdam Probation Department contacted my Probation Officer in California on my behalf and at my request
  - Asked whether I could finish my probation in Amsterdam my US probation officer stated this was not possible due to the fact that the USA has no formal agreement with the Netherlands covering such a solution.
  - The decision to remain in the Netherlands was up to me, she wrote in in a letter to the Dutch authorities, stating that if I were to do so the consequence would likely be that I wouldn't be able to return to the USA.
  - A few months later I indeed received a letter informing me that a warrant for my arrest was issued, active throughout the United States only, and that *if* I should return to the USA I would face arrest.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to [contact us](#).

- Anton and Janet Hein  
Last updated: Jan. 29, 2015

---

ANTON WILLIAM HEIN - 001  
FOI 12461

Defendant (5)

JUL 18 1994

The undersigned is informed and believes that:

COUNT 1

On and between March 14, 1994 and March 20, 1994, in the above named Judicial District, the crime of LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD, in violation of PENAL CODE SECTION 268(a), a Felony, was committed by ANTON WILLIAM HEIN, who did willfully, unlawfully, and lewdly commit a lewd and lascivious act upon and with the body and certain parts and members thereof of JANE DOE, a child under the age of fourteen years, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, and gratifying the lust, passions, and sexual desires of the said defendant, and the said child. It is further alleged that the above offense is a serious felony within the meaning of Penal Code Section 1192.7(c)(6).

\*NOTICE: Conviction of this offense will require you to register pursuant to Penal Code Section 290. Willful failure to register is a crime.\*

.....

COUNT 2

On and between March 20, 1994 and June 14, 1994, in the above named  
Judicial District, the crime of LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD, in violation of PENAL  
CODE SECTION 288(a), a Felony, was committed by ANTON WILLIAM HEIN, who did  
willfully, unlawfully, and lewdly commit a lewd and lascivious act upon and  
with the body and certain parts and members thereof of JANE DOE, a child under  
the age of fourteen years, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, and  
gratifying the lust, passions, and sexual desires of the said defendant(s) and  
the said child. It is further alleged that the above offense is a serious  
felony within the meaning of Penal Code Section 1192.1(c)(16).

\*NOTICE: Conviction of this offense will require you to register pursuant  
to Penal Code Section 290. Willful failure to register is a crime.\*

\* \* \* \* \*

Rick Ross exposed Hassan's connection to Anton Hein on his website Cult Education Institute.



2015

JAN

13

## Cult Watcher Steve Hassan's links to fugitive sex offender

 Rick Ross  Annton Hein, Apologetics Index, Uncategorized  2015-01-13

Cult watcher [Steve Hassan](#) is specifically recommending and promoting a fugitive sex offender through his [Freedom of Mind](#) website. Hassan recommends through numerous links, the website of convicted pedophile and wanted fugitive Anton Hein.

[CultNews](#) has previously reported about Anton Hein, who is a self-proclaimed expert and supposed lay minister. Hein runs a website called "[Apologetics Index](#)."

Anton Hein pleaded guilty to sex charges in the United States that involved lewd behavior with his niece, a 13-year-old child. He served jail time in California before he was released on extended supervised probation. Hein violated his probation by leaving the US. He now lives in Amsterdam. A [fugitive warrant](#) has been issued and remains currently in effect for the immediate arrest of Anton Hein.

Hein now apparently makes a living from a combination of Dutch welfare benefits and revenue from online Google ads featured at his "counter-cult" website. Steve Hassan helps him by including numerous links to Hein's site and apparent endorsements naming Hein as a credible resource.

Hein reciprocates by endorsing and promoting Hassan.

Anton Hein runs a group of websites including [www.cultexperts.org](#), [www.cultfaq](#), and he also controls [religion news Twitter feed](#).



Steve Hassan (photo left) says he is opposed to sexual abuse and is a supporter of the [Child-Friendly Faith Project](#). Hassan [states at his website](#) that this is “focused on ending child abuse and neglect within religion affiliated groups by educating the public.” Hassan also is currently involved in an effort to end sexual exploitation through [human trafficking](#).

However, [Steve Hassan states](#), “I recommend subscribing to the free Religion News report, compiled by Anton Hein Apologetics Index.” And at the top of one page [Hassan posts](#), “Click here to read a review of *Releasing the Bonds* on the Apologetics Index!”

#### **Hassan literally linked to Hein**

How can Hassan on one hand be opposed to sexual abuse and

exploitation and then on the other hand recommend a sexual predator convicted for abusing a child?

Hassan features links to Anton Hein’s website *Apologetics Index* at numerous pages within his site *Freedom of Mind* concerning various groups of interest such as the [Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God](#), where he recommends Hein (1996 photo right) as a resource.

Steve Hassan features links to Hein’s website on no less than [38 pages at Freedom of Mind](#).



There is a connection between Hassan and Hein. That is, they each promote the others interests. Hassan promotes Hein by recommending him as a resource and providing links to his site, while Hein reciprocates by promoting Hassan.

It is understandable that someone like Anton Hein, seeking recognition and validation, would want to associate himself with professionals. This might appear to imbue him with an aura of credibility.

How can Steve Hassan credibly be fighting against the sexual abuse of children and the victims of human trafficking, while simultaneously promoting a convicted sexual predator?

Isn't this just a bit inconsistent, hypocritical and/or unethical?

*CultNews* contacted Steve Hassan's office by email and phone for comment. His office advised that Mr. Hassan was not immediately available to comment on this article.

**Update:** Steven Hassan now also links to Anton Hein's website [cultexperts.org](http://cultexperts.org) through his Web page "[The Truth About Steven Hassan](#)." Hassan recommends the fugitive sex offender as a "useful page" supplying information about "[How to Select a Cult Expert](#)." Hein recommends Hassan.

**Note:** Some years ago upon discovering the fugitive status and detailed criminal record of Anton Hein the Cult Education Institute (CEI), formerly known as the Ross Institute of New Jersey, purged any links to Anton Hein's website from its database. Since that time CEI and *CultNews* has endeavored to make Hein's background more publicly known. This has been done through the [CEI archives](#) and [CultNews reports](#). Anyone involved in cultic studies can readily discover Hein's criminal history of child sexual abuse and know about his current fugitive status.

Rick Alan Ross





ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

7 3 6 0 0 4 4 0 3 2

PAUL H. CASTRO, GOVERNOR  
 STEPHEN B. BERRY, MEDICAL DIRECTOR

ARIZONA STATE HOSPITAL

200 EAST VAN BUREN STREET  
 PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004  
 TELEPHONE (602) 266-1221

G. LEE SANDRITTER, M.D., ACTING S.M.D.

March 25, 1976

This is a report on Ricky Ross, 23-year-old white single male sales representative, who was seen for the first time on 12-10-75 at Fillmore Mental Health Service, referred by Joy Carter of Catholic Social Service. The patient sought help because of anxiety, depression and sexual problems. He wanted to be able to understand himself better.

He was seen at Fillmore 13 sessions, once a week, each lasting for fifty minutes. When I first saw him he was feeling anxious, nervous, depressed and complaining of difficulty sleeping. He ascribed such feelings as stemming from his involvements in several thefts and burglaries as a result of which he had been in jail two times. He expressed deep concern that this would create a bad reputation for his future and especially for this reason stated that he wants to change his life style.

Ricky indicated that the reasons why he got involved with criminal activities was that he had had several jobs and although he enjoyed working in banks and collection agencies the low salary and slow promotion and the accumulation of unpaid bills pressured him to buy and use stolen credit cards and later on to steal furniture and appliances at model homes. He was later on approached by a jeweler friend who offered him partnership in an inside job diamond robbery which lead to his second arrest and imprisonment.

It had been known that Ricky Ross had been seen by several psychiatrists and counselors when 6 to 14 years old. He was diagnosed as a hyperkinetic child which later on lead to general behavioral problems in school being negativistic, manipulative, and argumentative. I saw Ricky as an arrogant, self-centered individual with some hostile tendencies. He was oriented in all dimensions and had some tendencies to be overproductive in his speech, and to manifest some degree of circumstantiality in his thinking. He had an inclination to monopolize the session and had a problem listening. He becomes evasive and defensive when his inner feelings are exposed or slighted. His associations were not loose. His thought processes are not disorganized. He has no disturbance of perception, no paranoid ideations, ideas of reference or ideas of influence. His affect was appropriate to his spoken thoughts. There was no impairment of memory and his fund of information was consistent with his education. There was no evidence of psychosis seen in him.

7 76 6 0 0 1 4 0 3 5  
6 5

RE: RICKY KOSS  
Page 2  
March 25, 1976

It is my opinion that Ricky has a personality disturbance which started even as a child. He had emotional maladjustment, never learned usual lines of conduct for socializing as a result of which as a child he had outbursts of rage, was demanding, a manipulative and argumentative child with no friends and was defiant. He does not seem to profit from his past experiences and cannot realize that what he does is socially unacceptable and dangerous and does not realize that he has a responsibility to society to control his behavior. He has had expressed guilt feelings for what he has done the first time but repeated what he had done despite the fact he had been reprimanded and punished for it. He was unable to control his impulses regardless of the punishments. Ricky seems to demand immediate and instant gratification of his desires and needs with no feelings for the interests of others with whom he had some emotional attachments. He does not seem to identify himself with society and its laws, and believes that punishments are an injustice. He has a tendency to externalize responsibility, though he is gradually assuming responsibilities now. He has problems learning because of his inability to listen.

I see Ricky as an individual who has sociopathic inclinations, [redacted] and as a person with learning disability.

Recommendation is strict probation with specific limitations and intensive guidance or psychotherapy. He will not benefit from any form of incarceration.

Prognosis is fair to guarded.

*Domiciano E. Santos M.D.*  
DOMICIANO E. SANTOS, M.D.

DS:jw



*“Criminal behavior, diamond theft, personality disturbance, sociopathic tendencies.”*

THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF  
MARICOPA COUNTY, STATE OF ARIZONA

OFFICE DISTRIBUTION

APPEALS	
BONDS REFUND	
FORFEITURE	
CHANGE OF VENUE	
JURY FEES	
REMANDS	
SENTENCING	

31-G Nov. 26, 1975 HON. EDWARD C. RAPP WILSON D. PALMER, Clerk  
V. Dahlquist, Deputy

39445 STATE OF ARIZONA  
vs  
RICKY ALLAN ROSS  
3  
County Attorney  
By: Ronald Collett  
Michael Dann  
APO

CHANGE OF PLEA.

The State is represented by Ronald Collett;  
the Defendant is present with counsel, Michael Dann;  
Court Reporter, Joseph Rosales, is present.

There being no objection by the Defendant, IT IS  
ORDERED permitting the State to file a Plea Agreement, said Plea  
Agreement to constitute the Amended Information.

The Defendant withdraws his former plea of not  
guilty and enters a plea of guilty to the crime of  
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT GRAND THEFT SECOND DEGREE - OPEN END  
as charged in the Amended Information.

The Court inquires of the Defendant concerning the  
Plea Agreement, advises him of his constitutional rights, and  
finds that the Defendant's plea of guilty is made knowingly,  
voluntarily and intelligently; that a factual basis for the plea  
exists, and the Court accepts the plea.

IT IS ORDERED setting the time for entry of Judgment  
(Continued)

THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF  
MARICOPA COUNTY, STATE OF ARIZONA

OFFICE DISTRIBUTION

APPEALS	
BONDS REFUND	
FORFEITURE	
CHANGE OF VENUE	
JURY FEES	
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31-G Nov. 26, 1975 HON. EDWARD C. RAPP WILSON D. PALMER, Clerk  
V. Dahlquist, Deputy

89445 STATE OF ARIZONA vs ROSS  
(Continues)

of Guilt and Sentencing on Monday, December 29, 1975 at 1:30 P.M.  
in this division.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Adult Probation  
Department make an investigation and submit a Presentence Report  
to this Court. The defendant is to report to the Adult Probation  
Department forthwith for this purpose.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the defendant may remain released  
O.R. pending sentencing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED vacating the trial date in  
this cause.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED taking under advisement  
State's motion to dismiss charge of Grand Theft by Embezzlement.

In the Superior Court

OF MARICOPA COUNTY STATE OF ARIZONA

89445

MICHAEL D. PALMER, CLERK  
BY: [Signature]  
1975 SEP -2 AM 11:46

THE STATE OF ARIZONA, )  
)  
)  
vs. )  
)  
RICKY ALLAN ROSS and )  
DANIEL ALLEN SCHROEDER, )  
)  
Defendants. )

NO. 89445

INFORMATION FOR  
THEFT BY EMBEZZLEMENT

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA, RICKY ALLAN ROSS and DANIEL ALLEN SCHROEDER are accused this 2nd day of September, 1975, by the County Attorney of Maricopa County, State of Arizona, by this Information, of the crime of THEFT BY EMBEZZLEMENT, a felony, committed as follows, to-wit:

The said RICKY ALLAN ROSS and DANIEL ALLEN SCHROEDER, on or about the 23rd day of July, 1975, and before the filing of this Information at and in the County of Maricopa, State of Arizona, committed theft by embezzling from Kay-Bee Interprises, property, to-wit: Three Hundred Six (306) pieces of jewelry, consisting of rings, watches, pendants, earrings, broaches, tie tacs and cuff links, of the value of over \$100.00, all in violation of A.R.S. §13-681, §13-682, §13-688, §13-671, §13-138, §13-139 and §13-140; contrary to the form, force and effect of the statute in such cases made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Arizona.

MOISE BERGER  
MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY

By: Steven C. Woodruff  
DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY

Rick's bio from his [website](#) goes on to share:

“In **1986** Ross left the staff of JFCS to become a **full-time private consultant, lecturer, and cult intervention specialist.**

He then began working privately with the victims of destructive groups and/or leaders.

His professional help is **typically requested by parents, but often is sought by spouses** and at times by the adult children of cult members. He has done hundreds of interventions.

Ross once cooperated with parents in involuntary "deprogramming" cases.

**Such involuntary interventions were initiated by families and involved the restraint of a loved one. In this type of intervention, the cult member was not free to leave and instead restrained under the supervision of their family. This restraint guaranteed an opportunity and adequate time to address family concerns.**

However, Ross, like other professionals working in this area, abandoned involuntary casework some years ago. He now restricts his intervention work exclusively to voluntary efforts, unless working with a minor child under the direct supervision of a custodial parent.”

When Rick Ross began his “private consultations” as a “cult intervention specialist,” he was a referral-based deprogrammer and affiliated with an organization called CAN (Cult Awareness Network). They would have families hire Rick among others, also Joe Szimhart, to deprogram family members. These illegal restraints resulted in lawsuits, one in particular, the **Jason Scott case in 1995.**

In 1995 , CAN, Rick Ross and two others were found guilty of conspiracy to violate the civil right to freedom of religion of Jason Scott.

Ross was ordered to pay more than \$3 million in damages; CAN was ordered to pay in excess of \$1 million.

Ross had been involved in hundreds of interventions with members of various religious groups over a 15-year period. He estimates that in about 20 cases, an intervention involved an adult held against their will. Scott was one of these: after an allegedly violent, brutal kidnapping, he was forcibly confined for five days.

Ross attempted to get Scott to abandon his church's beliefs. According to a 1998-APR-8 decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals:

Their 1998-APR-8 request to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit upheld the 1995 ruling. The court ordered the old CAN to pay Jason Scott \$875,000 in actual damages and \$1 million in punitive damages plus interest, dating from 1995.”

The descriptions of the forcible nature of the kidnapping and deprogramming attempt seemed to have made an impact on the jury,<sup>[26]</sup> who awarded \$875,000 in [compensatory damages](#) to Jason Scott, and [punitive damages](#) in the amount of \$1,000,000 against CAN, \$2,500,000 against Ross, and \$250,000 against each of Ross's two co-defendants.<sup>[21][27]</sup> The court found that CAN volunteers routinely referred callers to deprogrammers.<sup>[7][28]</sup>

After the jury decision, Scott said "he thought the amount of the award was justified."<sup>[29]</sup> Moxon said he thought "the decision and the large award for punitive damages set an important precedent and would deter other religious deprogrammers."<sup>[29]</sup> [United States District Judge John C. Coughenour](#) pronounced the verdict "quite reasonable"<sup>[29]</sup> and refused a motion to grant a new trial, stating:<sup>[26]</sup>

Finally, the court notes each of the defendants' seeming incapability of appreciating the maliciousness of their conduct towards Mr. Scott. Rather, throughout the entire course of this litigation, they have attempted to portray themselves as victims of Mr. Scott's counsel's alleged agenda. Thus, the large award given by the jury against both the CAN and Mr. Ross seems reasonably necessary to enforce the jury's determination on the oppressiveness of the defendants' actions and deter similar conduct in the future.<sup>[5][10][12]</sup>

In addition, the jury held the defendants, excluding CAN, liable for intentional infliction of emotional distress, finding they **"intentionally or recklessly acted in a way so outrageous in character and so extreme in degree as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency and to be regarded as atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized community."**<sup>[5][12][20][24][25]</sup>

Remarks of U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour, Seattle, Washington. *Jason Scott Plaintiff v. Rick Ross et al. Defendants.* Case No. C94-00796. November 29, 1995. Pp. 8, 14.

14           Initially, the Court notes that the reprehensibility of CAN's  
15           conduct goes far to justify the amount of the award. The continued  
16           use of euphemisms such as "involuntarily deprogramming" does not  
17           alleviate the fact that the actions in furtherance of the  
18           conspiracy involved the forceful abduction and retention of an  
19           adult against his will. Nor do the references to the goal of  
20           "educating" the public answer the virtually undisputed evidence  
21           that materials on "cults" will be negative and highly inflammatory  
22           by definition. The evidence showed that without regard to this  
23           fact, and despite an admitted lack of personal knowledge of Mr.  
24           Scott's church or his ability as an adult to rationally choose his  
25           own religion, Ms. Landa sent these "cult" materials to Ms. Tonkin.

Ross didn't stop deprogrammings after that. In fact, in a 2022 interview on [YouTube](#), he went into detail of what he does currently with his victims:



KONCRETE PODCAST S1 E123

**Cult Deprogrammer Explains How  
to Un-Brainwash Cult Victims | Ric...**

41K views • 1 year ago

In transcripts derived from a *YouTube Interview on Jan 31, 2022 "Cult Deprogrammer Explains How to Un-Brainwash Cult Victims."*

*Ross explains his current way of "deprogramming":*

"...so when it comes to meeting these people and deprogramming 23:31 there is there a sort of playbook that you use or is there a process 23:36 to reverting these people out of this mindset or ideology yes there is and my book *cults inside out* has chapters devoted to that there is a chapter on intervention preparation for 23:49 an intervention and then there are case vignettes for example a scientology intervention 23:56 uh an abusive controlling relationship intervention **basically a cult intervention takes 24:03 three to four days eight hours a day so we're talking about 24 to 32 hours of 24:09 work** like a drug or alcohol intervention the family's there and i'm going to cover four basic blocks 24:17 during that intervention 25:37 and then finally why did your family stage this intervention what do they see that maybe you don't 25:45 see what are they worried about uh what what problems have they experienced or 25:51 or estrangement do they feel has occurred as a result of your involvement with this group 25:57 so you go through those four blocks and and it's really an **educational** 26:03 process and a dialogue a discussion and the family is offering their first-hand 26:09 accounts their observations and what you're hoping is that you can uh 26:15 you can uh have a kind of ignition point where the 26:20 person's critical thinking comes into play and they literally think their way 26:26 out of the group of the situation"

An intervention *still* includes isolating the supposed cult victim and interrogating them in the name of "education" for 8 or more hours per day for 3-4 days.

## Rick Ross most notorious “deprogrammer”

*One of the most persistent critics of deprogramming, called it “protracted spiritual gang-rape” and “the most serious violation of our religious liberty in this generation.”*

# STAND

SCIENTOLOGISTS TAKING ACTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

17 February 2017

Kieran Cusack

Impakter.com

Mr. Cusack

The underlying problem with Ross professing to be an “expert” was strongly expressed by Nancy Ammerman, a preeminent religious scholar and one of the experts tasked by the Justice Department to evaluate the BATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) and FBI handling of the Branch Davidians in the tragedy at Waco, Texas. Ross claims to have acted as a behind-the-scenes “consultant” for the FBI.

In her September 1993 report to the Justice and Treasury Departments, Dr. Ammerman was particularly critical of the government's consultation of Rick Ross and the now-defunct Cult Awareness Network:

*In their attempt to build a case against the Branch Davidians, BATF did interview persons who were former members of the group and at least one person who had ‘deprogrammed’ a group member. Mr. Rick Ross, who often works in conjunction with the Cult Awareness Network (CAN), has been quoted as saying that he was ‘consulted’ by the BATF...*

*The Network and Mr. Ross have a direct ideological (and financial) interest in arousing suspicion and antagonism against what they call ‘cults.’ These same persons seem to have been major sources for the series of stories run by the Waco newspaper, beginning February 27. It seems clear that people within the ‘anti-cult’ community had targeted the Branch Davidians for attention. Although these people often call themselves ‘cult experts,’ they are certainly not recognized as such by the academic community.*

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