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[www.infocult.org](http://www.infocult.org)

### *Who Is Info-Cult*

Founded in 1980, Info-Cult is a non-profit charitable organization that helps people concerned or interested about cults, new religious movements and related phenomena.

Our services include :

an information and assistance phone line, consultation, research, conferences, documentation centre and an internet site.

## News from Info-Cult

No 11, June 2008

### More Services Needed

“Polygamy foster care tab \$21M in 2009” \*was the headline of a recent newspaper story dealing with the estimated cost that it would have taken to care for the over 450 children that were removed in the aftermath of the Texas law enforcement raid of a polygamist group.

Regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the raid we wonder what even a portion of those funds could have done if applied to educating people about cultic groups. As well, funds could be earmarked to helping those who need adequate care as a result of having been harmed by the FLDS \*\* (Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) in the United States and Canada or to the countless others victimized by abusive groups.

It is a sad commentary that when a tragedy or crisis occurs governments somehow find the money to respond but, there doesn't seem to be the same willingness as is often the case, to provide the funds for preventative

interventions that might avert a crisis or to provide the resources to assist those already harmed by abusive groups.

We've heard many times from former members that there was no one they could turn to for professional (psychological or legal) help. In cases where a mental health professional was contacted, all too often, former members felt the professional was not competent or willing to address their concerns or didn't feel comfortable delving into the area of religion and beliefs. In situations where they did find someone who might be able to help them they couldn't afford the cost. Unfortunately, many former members and especially those born or raised in cultic groups have little or no money and often limited skills, leaving them with little opportunities for meaningful employment.

After the dust settles around the raid in Texas and it could take months, will anything have been learned that will provide women and children better protection against abuses in these kinds of groups and will politicians, social workers, law enforcement and others be better educated to assist those who want to leave or have left these environments?

The debate over what to do will not be quickly resolved. However, we cannot ignore the fact that people and notably women and children are suffering and do need help.

\* United Press International, May 20, 2008

\*\* The FLDS split off decades ago from the main branch of Mormonism over the issue of polygamy. The Mormon Church banned the practice over a hundred years ago.

### Finding Information about a Group or Subject

When forming an opinion about a specific group or subject, it is always a good idea to use as many different sources of information as possible.

Since the advent of the internet it's often the first stop people make when looking for information about a cult, new religious movement or a related group or subject. There are countless sites dealing with this area, so often it is the only reference people use. The internet is a valuable tool but not the only means and not necessarily the most reliable source of information. In searching it may be helpful to remember that information on groups can also be obtained from:

- The group itself;
- Former members;
- Books and Journals;
- Information or research centers on the cult phenomenon and/or new religious movements;
- Individuals who have studied and are familiar with the group and/or the phenomenon such as lawyers, researchers, journalists, psychologists, social workers, etc.

## Info-Cult Web Site

Information is added on an ongoing basis. To remain up to date we suggest visiting our web site on a regular basis. In addition to other pages, updates are often made to the following pages which can be accessed from the Menu page of our site: [www.infocult.org](http://www.infocult.org).

### **LEGAL AND GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS, etc.**

For example from Belgium, Canada, France, Switzerland and the United States.

### **PUBLICATIONS FROM INFO-CULT**

Presentations, articles and letters by Info-Cult, staff and colleagues, including a recent presentation given by Mike Kropveld, *Government and "Cults"* at a conference in London, England.

### **INFO-CULT'S LIBRARY COLLECTION**

Info-Cult's Library Collection and New Acquisitions reflecting the growing body of work from different perspectives on "cults", "new religious movements" and related groups and subjects.

### **UPCOMING MEDIA PROGRAMS AND CONFERENCES**

Upcoming and past TV and Radio programs as well as conferences and other announcements.

### **NEWS FROM INFO-CULT**

Past issues can be found on this page.

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or by check to Info-Cult, 5655 Park Ave. #208, Montreal, QC H2V 4H2