



Paramount Baptist Lawsuit

An Amarillo church is headed to court to answer accusations it failed to protect children after being warned about a sexual molester at Sunday school.

NewsChannel 10 discovered new details about the criminal at the center of the legal fire. A teacher who did not want to speak on camera tells us that she worked with Patrick Farmer at an Amarillo school. She says that he told her the school did not renew his contract after he repeatedly let little girls sit on his lap.

Incidents like this are spurring the family of two sisters Farmer sexually abused - to file a lawsuit against the church for what happened to the children there. Ministers must now answer for the sins of a former church employee who molested Sunday school children.

Patrick Farmer pleaded guilty last year to four counts of indecency with a child by sexual contact. The victims' parents claim church leaders did nothing to stop it.

The victims' lawyer, Stan Broome says, "Paramount Baptist Church lied about what was going on. They told parents that adults would be with children at all times. Instead they assigned this pedophile, [Patrick Farmer], to a Sunday school classroom where he was the only adult there, and that's where the molestation began."

Church leaders are tight-lipped about the case, but in a statement read by pastor Dave Anderson, they insist that they take their children's safety seriously. They are investigating claims about Farmer, who spent nine years with the church: "He was a volunteer Sunday school teacher and a paid child care worker until 2004," says Anderson.

Broome insists the church knew about Farmer's sexual behavior and covered it up: "Patrick Farmer had molested children both before and after, and there had been numerous complaints made to Paramount Baptist Church, both by other families and even by one local school district who warned the church not to hire him."

If the family wins the civil case in Randall County, a jury would decide what, if any, damages they should receive. Now Pastor Anderson tells us Farmer is no longer a member of the church. Farmer is currently serving a six-year probation term for his sexual abuse crimes.

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