



1 LIVE



81°

97°

97°

ADVERTISEMENT

# Lawsuit accuses LDS Church of not protecting 2 sisters from sexual abuse by bishop

by McKenzie Stauffer  
Friday, June 5th 2020

AA



5

**VIEW ALL PHOTOS**

...ch of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is at the center of a lawsuit that claims the institution could have prevented two young girls from ...ually abused. (Photo: KUTV)



1

LIVE



81 °

97 °

97 °

(KUTV) — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is at the center of a lawsuit that claims the institution could have prevented two young girls from being sexually abused.

The amended civil lawsuit, filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court, claims the Church in San Jose could have prevented the abuse by a former bishop.

Joseph Neipp, 72, is accused of sexually abusing two sisters, referred to as Jane Doe and Jane Doe 2 in the lawsuit.

The sister reportedly met the man when they enrolled in a church-sponsored program. Neipp was once the bishop of San Jose's Branham Ward in south San Jose.

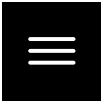
Sponsored Links

## Bitcoin for beginners: what you need to know before buying Bitcoin

eToro

The lawsuit alleges Jane Doe was sexually abused by Neipp between 2009 to 2016 and Jane Doe 2 was abused from 2012-2016. He is currently facing criminal charges for child sex abuse in the Santa Clara County Superior Court, according to a [press release](#).





1

LIVE



81°

97°

97°



*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is at the center of a lawsuit that claims the institution could have prevented two young girls from being sexually abused. (Photo: KUTV)*

The lawsuit names The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which oversees Branham Ward operations, stating it had a duty to protect the young girls from sexual abuse by Church leaders. It also stated Neipp inappropriately "groomed" the girls on Church property.

This family was especially trusting of Neipp since church members are taught that bishops are chosen by God to represent a ward, the lawsuit states.

"The Church taught its members, including plaintiffs and their parents, that the Bishop was chosen by God to represent the ward. As such, plaintiffs and their parents especially trusted Neipp," the document states.

"In his actual or apparent authoritative capacity as the bishop of the Branham Ward, Neipp repeatedly engaged in inappropriate grooming behavior with children during Primary classes and on or around ward events including allowing small children to sit on his lap, and transporting plaintiffs and other young children alone in his vehicle to ward activities," the lawsuit alleges.

Attorney's for Jane Doe's claim Church leaders were aware of Neipp's potential threat to children prior to the abuse.

.her 2009 or 2010, the Church was made aware that a Branham Ward parent complained



1

LIVE



81°

97°

97°

the Church excommunicated Neipp and removed him from his position as bishop, but didn't bother to tell church members. So, he was still regarded as bishop or 'Father of the Ward' and parents were under the impression that it was safe for children to be around him."

2News has reached out to the Church for comment.

### MORE TO EXPLORE

**Marriage, family and sex therapist officially notified of excommunication from LDS Church**

**Fatal crash shuts down traffic on I-15 near Mesquite**

**Yellowstone National Park officials investigating grizzly bear incident caught on camera**

### SPONSORED CONTENT

by Taboola

**Plastic Surgeon Explains: "Doing This Every Morning Can Snap Back Sagging Skin" (No Creams Needed)**

Beverly Hills MD | SPONSORED

Try Now

**7 Discounts Seniors Only Get If They Ask**

National Penny For Seniors | SPONSORED

**Refrigerate A Room In 2 Minutes**

h Today | SPONSORED



1

LIVE



81°

97°

97°



## If Your Dog Eats Dry Food, Do This Every Day

If Your Dog Licks His Paws - Top Vet Says To Do This Daily

[See more](#)

Loading ...