

*Melanie S. J. Sakoda*

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HCDHS

628 Sycamore Street  
Cincinnati OH 45202  
Attention: 241 KIDS

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter from the abbot of St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Skete to a Mr. Samuel David Allen, verifying that Allen had been invited to spend the Christmas holidays in Cincinnati. Allen needed permission to leave California as he was still under state supervision following a 1983 conviction for the molestation of two children in two separate incidents. Allen never actually visited the monastery, as he was convicted of molestation again in December of 1990. Allen is now serving a 15 year sentence at Pelican Bay State Penitentiary in California.

I am directing your attention to this letter because The Rev. Stephen Kostoff of Christ the Savior/Holy Spirit Church at 4285 Ashland Avenue in Cincinnati has informed me that St. Seraphim of Sarov provides care for orphans, and that at least one child has been adopted by the abbot. I also understand from Father Stephen and from another reliable source that the monastery had recently relocated to Cincinnati from Detroit because of an "incident" involving a monk and a novice there, although I do not know if the novice was a minor or what the "incident" involved. In any event, if the abbot of St. Seraphim's is indeed responsible for homeless children, I have serious concerns about his suitability as a guardian.

As background, I was given the letter by Nicole Greely of the San Francisco Police Department. Ms. Greely was investigating Allen's involvement in the molestation of children, at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Green Street in the City. For verification of Allen's criminal record, I would suggest you contact Kathryn D. Mitchell, who was involved in both of his convictions. Ms. Mitchell's address is:

Kathryn D. Mitchell, Deputy District Attorney  
Room 183, Hall of Justice  
San Rafael CA 94903

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Melanie S. J. Sakoda

Enclosure  
cc: CPS