

The use of an anonymous "LLC," hidden behind layers of attorneys, has emboldened the individuals involved to freely post misinformation, details missing critical context, and defamatory statements that are wholly untrue. On the one hand, this website offers "facts"; on the other, the information (according to a statement on this same website) is not necessarily "correct, complete, or up to date." Any reasonable person would consider this "mixed messaging" and an attempt to create confusion with sensationalized statements.

Below are just a sampling of the many misstatements and false narratives peddled by the anonymous authors of this website:

Website Quote: "For decades, Joe White and other camp leaders knew about and facilitated sexual abuse against scores of children, a pattern that may continue to occur to this day. The same leadership is still at the helm — without repentance, without accountability, and without transparency."

FACT: Any suggestion that Kanakuk "facilitated sexual abuse" is purposely sensational in order to garner attention, intellectually dishonest, unsupported by evidence, and made in bad faith. To suggest Kanakuk is "without repentance, without accountability, and without transparency" is also blatantly untrue, a clear misrepresentation of deposition testimony, the CPP training we have provided to over 600 organizations, and is contrary to Kanakuk's core values. These specific allegations are shameful and mean-spirited. Kanakuk is humbled and grateful when we can have direct conversations. Joe White continues to seek out any opportunity to meet with victims and their families who will allow him the privilege to share his sincere sorrow and seek forgiveness and reconciliation. He has also provided an open letter to victims who do not prefer to meet face-to-face. [[Letter From Joe White](#)]

Furthermore, the events surrounding Pete Newman's abuses were investigated by the Taney County Sheriff's Office and the Missouri Division of Family Services. Their lengthy investigation determined that no other Kanakuk employee or leadership member was aware of Mr. Newman's illegal activities. Additionally, Joe White and Pete Newman's former supervisors (both no longer employed at Kanakuk) have provided sworn testimony that they did not learn of Mr. Newman's illegal activities until March 2009, when Kanakuk took immediate action.

Website Quote: "Non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) and significant financial settlements have concealed the truth in order to preserve a ministry brand and economic engine."

FACT: We believe that victims of abuse should be free to share their story in support of their healing. It is an essential part of the healing journey for many, and we support this right and will not stand in the way of any who wishes to do so. It is true that some victims have settlement agreements that involve insurance companies who

may choose to defend their interests. While free to share their story, the specific terms of the settlement agreement must remain confidential.

Website Quote: "Numerous former staff members are convicted child sex abusers, with many others suspected."

FACT: Since our founding in 1926, Kanakuk has employed over 50,000 summer staff. Despite Kanakuk's best prevention efforts, two employees were convicted of the sexual abuse of minors at camp. The extent of abuse by Pete Newman was unknown and shocking. As a result, Kanakuk created the Child Protection Plan ("CPP"), which includes over 340 checkpoints, practices, and standards to protect kids. The CPP plan enabled Kanakuk to swiftly identify the second abuser, terminate his employment, and coordinate with law enforcement.

While all abuse is unacceptable and abhorrent, Kanakuk's CPP significantly exceeds qualitative and quantitative expectations relative to other youth-serving organizations. The anonymously owned website unfairly references other former staff members who have been convicted of abuse long after leaving Kanakuk, implying Kanakuk was aware such individuals were potential abusers while on staff. This is both incorrect and defamatory. To further imply that Kanakuk is responsible for or complicit in every action taken by every former employee for life is entirely illogical and unfair.

Website Quote: "Repeated failure to abide by mandatory reporting laws for child safety, molestation, and abuse."

FACT: This is blatantly false. Kanakuk has abided by the mandatory reporting laws concerning abuse—sexual or otherwise. Kanakuk has never been found deficient in this regard.

Website Quote: "White uses the title of 'Dr.' publicly, but his doctoral degrees were honorary only, from Bellhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi, and Southwestern Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri."

FACT: Joe White does not personally refer to himself as a "Dr." In fact, he simply prefers to be called "Joe." Anyone even vaguely familiar with Kanakuk knows this. He has consistently disclosed that his formal academic education only consists of a Bachelor of Science from Southern Methodist University, and his two honorary doctorates are simply that—honorary.

Website Quote: "Joe White is neither a licensed counselor nor an ordained minister, although he practices and claims expertise in counseling and pastoral care."

FACT: University Baptist Church in Fayetteville, AR, ordained Joe White. Further, Joe has worked with kids, college students, and families since 1976 through Kanakuk and other ministries. He is a highly sought-after speaker and author of more than 20 books on parenting and the Christian faith. He has never professed to be a licensed counselor.

Website Quote: "Further, a review of the Kanakuk Child Protection Plan (CPP) indicates a deficit in expertise. Rick Braschler, who has served as Kanakuk's director of risk since 2003, admitted under oath that he had no experience in this area prior to joining Kanakuk."

FACT: Rick Braschler has served as the Director of Risk and Safety Management for Kanakuk Ministries since October 2003. As a licensed insurance agent for over 30 years, Rick has a long history of working with youth-serving organizations and implementing known standards of care for the prevention of child abuse. Rick has received significant training on child sexual abuse awareness and prevention strategies, including the Cambridge Certificate in Risk Management, Praesidium, Abuse Prevention Systems, and the National Child Protection Symposium. Rick is a subject matter expert on safety and risk for youth-serving organizations, and is considered a national expert on child sexual abuse, authoring numerous articles and serving as an expert witness in civil cases throughout the United States. In Rick's 30-year career in safety management, he has provided child abuse training to over 25,000 youth workers and over 600 youth-serving organizations. Rick also served on the expert panel in developing the national accreditation standards for the Evangelical Council on Abuse Prevention (ECAP).

Website Quote: "There have been a number of alleged and convicted sex offenders attached to Kanakuk Kamps and its family of ministries over the past several decades, each incident quietly swept under the rug. While former K-Kountry director Pete Newman, the camp's most prominent serial predator, was sentenced to life in prison for the abuse of dozens of boys, there is more to this story."

FACT: In its nearly one-hundred-year history, employing over 50,000 summer staff, two individuals have been convicted for child sexual abuse while employed at Kanakuk. When these crimes became known, Kanakuk reported these crimes and worked with prosecutors to convict these individuals. Kanakuk has never minimized or denied their reported abuse.

Website Quote: "While scholarships to Kanakuk Kamps are not available for KAA-eligible families, Joe White does offer such scholarships to military children and to families who are known to have endured Kanakuk sexual abuse."

FACT: This statement is false, without evidence, and heartlessly inflammatory. Kanakuk does not discriminate against any camper attending its camps. For decades, Kanakuk has sought to serve underserved youth from urban areas (including minorities) and provided scholarships to campers who otherwise could not afford camp. Each year, Kanakuk provides over \$2 million annually in scholarships for various reasons, including family hardship, financial need, military, and fallen soldier families.

Website Quote: "Kanakuk Kamps released its first written policy on preventing sexual abuse, 19 years after materials to educate staff were readily available and more than 23 years after the "Camp Directors Guide: Preventing Sexual Exploitation of Children" was published by the U.S. Department of Justice."

FACT: Kanakuk has long had abuse prevention and reporting policies and procedures in place that met the industry and insurance standards, including characteristics and signs of victims or abusers, definitions and statistics of abuse, and reporting instructions.

In response to the abuses that became known in 2009, Kanakuk dedicated significant financial resources and spent countless hours of research and development to further advance its child protection efforts in what is the Child Protection Plan ("CPP"). Kanakuk has turned the CPP into a mission to train and equip other youth-serving organizations to advance their child protection, and over 600 organizations have received the training and materials to date. And Kanakuk continues to learn from others to enhance our CPP.

Website Quote: "Following Newman's arrest on multiple charges involving sex with teenage boys over a 10-year period, White sends an email to Kanakuk families that stated Newman "is dealing with a personal family crisis" while asking them to respect his privacy and "keep [Newman] in your prayers."

FACT: Kanakuk contacted authorities when we became aware of the abuse. Kanakuk cooperated with authorities in the investigation and prosecution. The email referenced was sent following Mr. Newman's termination of employment, while the investigation was ongoing and prior to his arrest. Once the investigation was complete and charges were filed, Kanakuk took action to notify all campers who had any exposure to Pete Newman during his employment.