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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### A New Question about Witness Anonymity

From: [XianneKei@aol.com](mailto:XianneKei@aol.com)  
Date: Fri, 12 Sep 1997 14:55:27 -0400 (EDT)  
Fwd Date: Sat, 13 Sep 1997 00:46:47 -0400  
Subject: A New Question about Witness Anonymity

Greetings List Members and Our Esteemed Moderator/Owner:

I really admire EBK for all the work he does on this list, plus he's an all-around good guy, too! Hopefully, he's going to allow me to touch on the topic of witness anonymity in relation to abductees.

The subject of abductee anonymity is an important one and I agree that abductee's should have anonymity, if they so choose. I don't want to debate when they give up their anonymity, as we have been there, done that.

My question relates to ethical issues -- something which has been on my mind of late, as I just now getting around to reading the papers from the Abduction Conference held at MIT. A most interesting book, with a lot of excellent ideas and reasearch.

The way I see it there is NOTHING right now to hold a non-medical professional to any kind of ethical standard. This is one of the big problems facing abduction investigation/research, IMO.

In the medical profession (and probably many other professions as well) there are ethical standards which professionals are held to. One of those standards (and it may even be a law, for all I know) involves a patient's right to privacy. If an abductee was working with a medical professional, the abductee would have reasonable assurance that the professional would be held accountable, if that privacy was violated. There are ethical committees that would accept testimony and consider action against a medical professional who divulged private information about a patient.

But that is not so with abductionists -- such as Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs, Derrel Sims and others who have no standard to uphold. I'm not saying that ANY of these people are unethical, but what recourse does an abductee have if these people violate some promise? There is no committee to take a complaint to. There is no way to put them out of business. Your only recourse, IMO, could be a court battle which would be costly. I don't know how you could even win a case (but that doesn't mean it's not possible) if one of these people did violate some promise they made to you, because these people are not bound to any code of ethics.

The Code of Ethics that has been adopted by CUFOS and MUFON is a good one, but it is little more than a document. You can't really hold anyone to it.

I've heard stories of non-medical professionals disclosing information that they should have kept confidential but I have no proof.

Other than the putting the word out that a confidentiality has been breeched, what's to stop a new person from going to these people for help, unaware that they might not be ethical. Also, do abductees even realize that these people are under no obligation, except morally, to uphold your confidences?

John Velez, from time to time, signs his posts "Union Rep." I'm not a big fan of unions, but I do believe it is time for some of the myths and fallacies of abduction research to be put to bed. Maybe it's time for an abductee's union. A place where abductees could get responsible information on their rights.

I think a clearing house should be established where complaints about abuses could be filed and investigated. Maybe that's a witch hunt, I don't know.

Rebecca

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