

TIMELINE OF FRAUD CASE

1995

Defendants hire Newman as a camp counselor - Joe White and Kanakuk Defendants hired Newman as a camp counselor with an incomplete application and no background check.

1999

Newman caught nude with children - Defendants notified that Newman had led nude activities with several young boys on campgrounds owned by Joe White, including nude four-wheeling and swimming.

Newman is promoted to full time staff at Kanakuk and begins serving as the Director of Father/Son Ministry. He maintained this role and other leadership titles until 2009.

Parent reports suspected sexual behavior with son - A concerned parent reported to Defendants her suspicion of Newman exhibiting unusual sexual behavior toward her son at a father-son retreat after witnessing her son throw away his jeans and proclaiming, "I never want to see Pete again."

2000

Newman is promoted to Summer Staff Leadership and Men's Director for K-Kountry.

2001

Newman is warned by supervisor - Newman's direct supervisor, Will Cunningham (Director of K-Kountry), sent Newman a formal letter warning him to avoid sleeping one-on-one with children and other corrective guidelines and recommendations.

Newman is promoted to Assistant Kamp Director for K-Kountry.

2003

Newman caught nude with children again - Defendants received new reports of Newman sexually abusing children, including nude swimming and nude basketball games with boys.

Newman receives disciplinary action - Cunningham reprimanded Newman and dismissed him from participating in the 2003 Summer Leadership Weekend. Cunningham did not have authority to terminate director-level employees, so this was the most severe disciplinary action he could execute as Newman's supervisor at the time. Only Kanakuk CEO Joe White could terminate director-level employees.

Direct supervisor recommends Newman's termination - Cunningham did not have authority in his role to terminate Newman, so he strongly recommended Newman's termination to Defendants, who declined to honor Cunningham's request and, rather, fully reinstated Newman.

Newman maintains leadership role - Rather than terminating Newman as requested by his direct supervisor, Will Cunningham, Defendants maintained Newman's assistant director role and continued aggressively promoting him as the face of Kanakuk in marketing materials and fundraising nationally.

2003-2008

Plaintiff Logan Yandell is abused by Newman in multiple U.S. states and even abroad on a mission trip to China.

2005

Newman is promoted to Kamp Director of K-Kountry after Will Cunningham leaves his role. Newman fully assumed his role as K-Kountry Director in the summer of 2006.

2006

Defendants dismiss another concerned parent's report - A female camper reported to her mother that she witnessed Newman's inappropriate behavior with a boy camper during her K-Kountry term. The mother reported this to Defendants, who said they would investigate the matter. Defendants later responded to her that they had looked into the incident and that the female camper who reported the incident to her mother was neither athletic nor goldy enough to be a fit for Kanakuk, so she should not return.

Defendants learn of Newman's hot tub bible studies - Defendant White learned that Newman was "ministering" to children in his hot tub on a nightly basis. White felt this was enough of a problem to issue a corrective action himself. The correction, however, was not to prohibit the regular hot tub encounters but merely an encouragement to Newman to reassess the amount of time he was spending with his family.

2009

Defendants confront Newman after receiving legal accusations from parents, 10 years after Defendants first knew of Newman's abusive nudity with children.

Newman confesses to Defendants of at least five counts of sexually abusing children over 10 years. Defendants dismiss Newman from his employment and he leaves town immediately until his arrest in September 2010. The camp tells families that Newman had a family emergency and to keep him in their prayers.

Kanakuk begins to disclose information regarding Newman's abuse of children to their commercial liability insurance provider, ACE American Insurance Company. They continue to disclose information throughout 2009 and 2010.

2010

Newman receives two life sentences plus 30 years in Missouri state prison based on multiple counts of statutory sodomy and child enticement involving child abuse on Kanakuk property. At the time of his sentencing, 57 victims were known, although that list has grown over time and as more survivors come forward and file claims.

Kanakuk decides to withhold information regarding Newman's history and patterns of abuse to campers and their families, including plaintiff Logan Yandell, after being advised to do so by their insurance policy provider. Kanakuk drafts two letters with information regarding Newman's abuse of children that they considered sending to approximately 8,000 campers, including plaintiff Logan Yandell. Kanakuk sends these letters to ACE American Insurance Company for review prior to distribution. ACE American Insurance Company responds with "such disclosures threaten to expose Kanakuk to greater liability and may interfere with ACE's contractual right to defend claims and to have Kanakuk's cooperation in that defense. We strongly recommend that you do not send out the proposed public disclosures about Mr. Newman's misconduct at camp and Kanakuk's response to that conduct." Kanakuk decides not to disclose information regarding Newman's patterns of abuse to campers.

In order to induce a swift settlement, Defendants tell Plaintiff family that they had no prior knowledge of Newman sexually abusing children. With this understanding, plaintiff Logan Yandell and his parents agree to settle their claims against Kanakuk for a confidential amount and enter into an NDA.

2021-2022

Plaintiff discovers fraud - Through a resurgence of media about Kanakuk in 2021-2022, plaintiff discovered that Defendants did have prior knowledge of Newman's sexual abuse of minors, with incident reports spanning at least a decade. A December 2021 [article](#) in particular revealed that Cunningham recommended Newman's termination in 2003 due to Newman's patterns. At this discovery, plaintiff Logan Yandell and his parents realized they had been defrauded.

November 2022

Plaintiff Logan Yandell files petition for damages caused by Defendants' fraud.

April 2023

Defendants' (Kanakuk Heritage Inc., Kanakuk Ministries, and Joe White) request for dismissal of the suit is denied.

October 2023

Kanakuk files cross-claim against co-defendant ACE American Insurance Company for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, bad faith refusal to defend, indemnity and contribution.

November 2023

ACE American Insurance Company files answer to Kanakuk's cross-claim. The answer and affirmative defenses include a request for the court to dismiss the cross-claim.

July 2024

Plaintiff Logan Yandell's case is amended to include an additional count of civil conspiracy.

October 2024

Motions filed by Defendants (Kanakuk et al and ACE American Insurance Company) to dismiss amendment denied.

January 2025

Plaintiff Logan Yandell's case dismissed – The presiding judge ruled that the claims were “time-barred” due to Missouri’s statute of limitations, and does not consider 2021 the year of discovery. Yandell’s spokesperson [indicated](#) an appeal is expected, because “there has been no dispute that Logan was abused, that Joe White lied to his parents, inducing the settlement they agreed to, or that ACE insurance sent the letter threatening to deny coverage if Kanakuk told the truth to thousands of families.”