

ISKCON LAW BOOK

I) 429.2 Law Book Committee Law Book — Sections — 2019 [Rule of order] (Proposed by Nrsimha Kavaca Das and sponsored by Madhu Sevita Das and Praghosa Das)

Whereas the current Law Book Committee has been working to make the body of GBC resolutions more accessible to the members of ISKCON; Whereas this has resulted in the development of a web-based database; Whereas in order to focus the search feature of the database the search criteria must be very specific; Whereas the resolutions have been sorted into clearly defined categories; Whereas the proposed sections are based on the chapters of the 1996 printed Law Book; Whereas the following was unanimously passed by the GBC at the AGM in 2016 but not recorded: Resolved: All proposals and resolutions must be sorted into the following sections: 100 – Srila Prabhupada 200 – Governing Body Commission 300 – International Society for Krishna Consciousness 400 – ISKCON Ministries and Committees 500 – Deputies, GDOs and Zonal Supervisors 600 – ISKCON spiritual leadership 700 – Gurus and disciples 800 – Appointments 900 – Financial and legal 2000 – Appendices.

Previously:

I) 429.2 Law Book Committee Law Book — Categories — 2019 [Rule of order]

(Proposed by Nrsimha Kavaca Das and Sponsored by Madhu Sevita Das and Praghosa Das)

Whereas the categories use to classify resolutions passed by the GBC have evolved over time, as can be seen by the following: 1987: 1997: All resolutions be categorized as a rule of order, law, or provisional order at the time of passing. That all GBC resolutions shall be categorized as one of the following: a. Action Order (administrative, appointment, action oriented, directive or provisional orders, plus send to or form a committee, etc. that is temporary in nature and expires on completion) b. GBC Rule of Order (permanent in nature) c. ISKCON Law (permanent in nature) d. ISKCON Vision and Goal (time bound) (future planning, strategies, standing objectives which push on the preaching of the Society and position papers, statements of appreciation, etc. that are permanent in nature), and e. Guideline (behavior or action for ISKCON). 2010: The following terms, when used as descriptions of the intent of GBC Resolutions and included in the language of the resolution when passed by the Body, shall henceforward have the following meanings:

1. **LAW:** A statement of principle applicable permanently to the whole of ISKCON.
2. **GUIDELINE:** A statement of principle recommended to be adopted by the whole of ISKCON.
3. **RULE OF ORDER:** A rule governing the internal functioning of the GBC Body. The Rules of Order as a whole also form a default set of rules for the internal functioning of other ISKCON administrative bodies, to be followed as applicable to their various circumstances, unless the other body has specifically resolved that it shall function differently.

Laws, Guidelines, and Rules of Order, in order to have the effect of Laws, Guidelines, and Rules of Order as described in these definitions, must be declared as such within the language

of the resolution when passed by the GBC Body. The GBC Executive Committee shall cause updated compilations of all current Laws, Guidelines, and Rules of Order to be maintained and regularly made available to the society. Other declarations of categories shall be optional, and the intent of a resolution shall be determined by the wording of the resolution itself and not by the category declared.

Whereas the existing categorizations of GBC resolutions have been found to be inadequate, and to some degree inappropriate, for the present functioning of the GBC; Whereas the intent of the above resolutions – to help minimize confusion and improve the resolutions’ usability – was partly accomplished, it has been found that not all resolutions fit neatly into one of these categories, and some mis-categorizations have increased confusion rather than reducing it; Whereas a better policy will be to let the resolution speak for itself, with optional categorization included in the resolution wording when such is deemed helpful to convey the intent of the resolution; Whereas for those resolutions that establish enduring principles, the GBC should provide standard definitions for the category terms; Whereas the GBC directed the current ISKCON Law Book Committee to keep as much of the work of the previous committee as possible, and; Whereas the following was unanimously passed by the GBC at the AGM in 2016 but not recorded.

Resolved: The following categories must be used to define any proposal being presented to the GBC Body to describe the intent of the proposal. This language which will be included in the final resolution shall henceforward have the following meanings:

1. Constitutional principles Enduring principles based on Prabhupada's teachings on how ISKCON should be organized. Enduring features of ISKCON as per Prabhupada's teachings.
2. Governing laws: Rules governing the practical functioning of ISKCON which are globally applicable.
3. Statutory regulations: The Memorandum and Articles of Association which govern the internal functioning of the ISKCON GBC Society West Bengal.
4. Rules of order: Procedures for the functioning of the GBC Body.
5. Administrative guidelines: Detailed description of the practical application of laws.

Includes Administrative Orders, Action Orders, Position Papers and Statements.

- a. Administrative order: Orders by which an administrative wing or branch of ISKCON with specific functions is created. E.g. a ministry or other functional unit that has an existence beyond the scope of the individuals performing the task.
- b. Action order A directive to a specific individual or group of individuals to perform a time bound task.
- c. Position statements Considered conclusions of the Body on particular subject matters.
- d. Statements Declarations setting forth decisions of the Body.

e. Guidelines Guidance relative to setting standards or determining a course of action. f. Votes of thanks Statements of appreciation or recognition of outstanding service or contributions to ISKCON.

II) 429.2 Law Book Committee Law Book — One Category per Resolution — 2019 [Rule of order] (Proposed by Nrsimha Kavaca Das and sponsored by Madhu Sevita Das and Praghosa Das)

Whereas the current Law Book Committee has been working to make the body of GBC resolutions more accessible to the members of ISKCON; Whereas this has resulted in the development of a web-based database; Whereas in order to focus the search feature of the database the search criteria must be very specific; Whereas resolutions that have more than one category are more difficult to enter and refine the search.

Resolved: All proposals shall only include one category as defined in the above resolution “Lawbook — Categories — 2019.” For proposal concepts that require more than one category, e.g. “Action order,” “ISKCON law,” etc., each section requiring its own category must be presented as a separate proposal.

III) 429.2 Law Book Committee Law Book — Guru Name Abbreviations — 2019 [Rule of order] (Proposed by Nrsimha Kavaca Das and sponsored by Madhu Sevita Das and Praghosa Das)

Whereas as ISKCON expands and an ever-increasing number of devotees get initiated it is common that many devotees have the same name; Whereas Srila Prabhupada has stated that the identity of a person can be understood by who their father is; Whereas there is a need to be able to clearly identify which devotee(s) a resolution is referring to; Whereas such identification will assist the search feature of the Law Book Database; Whereas such a list is already in existence and has been used by the PAMHO email service for many years:

Resolved: Any devotees referred to in any proposal to the GBC will be identified by adding the abbreviation of their spiritual master’s name after their initiated name. The Guru Services Committee is directed to maintain this list and generate abbreviations for new initiating spiritual masters.

The following list is accepted as the standardized list of abbreviations for all past and current ISKCON gurus: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada Atmanivedana Swami Bhakti Bhrnga Govinda Swami Bhakti Bhusana Swami Bhakti Caitanya Swami Bhakti Charu Swami Bhakti Dhira Damodara Swami Bhagavan Das Bhavananda Das Bhakti Gaurava Narayana Swami Bhakti Gauravani Goswami Bhurijana Das Bir Krishna Das Goswami Bhaktimarga Swami Bhakti Raghava Swami Bhakti Svarupa Damodara Swami (ACBSP) (AVS) (BBGS) (BBS) (BCAIS) (BCS) (BDDS) (BGD) (BG) (BGNS) (BGVG) (BJD) (BKG) (BMS) (BRS) (BSDS) Bhakti Sundar Goswami Bhakti Tirtha Swami Bhakti Vijnana Goswami Bhakti Vikasa Swami Bhakti Vaidurya Madhava Swami Bhakti Visrambha

Madhava Swami Bhakti Vrajendranandana Swami Bhaktividya Purna Swami Bhaktivaibhava Swami Bhaktivyasa Tirtha Swami Bhakti Vighna Vinasa Narasimha Swami Caitanya Candra Caran Das Caitanya Candra Das Caru Das Candra Mukha Swami Candramauli Swami Devamrita Swami Dhanurdhara Swami Danavir Goswami Druktakarma Das Dhanvantari Swami Gunagrahi Das Goswami Giridhari Swami Gour Govinda Swami Gopal Krishna Goswami Gopaswami Das Guru Prasad Swami Giriraja Swami Ganapati Swami Hrdayananda Das Goswami Harikesa Das Hanumatpresaka Swami Indradyumna Swami Isvara Swami Jayadvaita Swami Jagadish Das Janananda Goswami Jivananda Das Jayapataka Swami Kesava Bharati Das Goswami Kavicandra Swami Krsna Das Swami Kalakantha Das Kadamba Kanana Swami Kripamoya Das (BSG) (BTS) (BVG) (BVKS) (BVMD) (BVMS) (BVNS) (BVPS) (BVS) (BVTS) (BVVNS) (CCCD) (CCD) (CD) (CMKS) (CMS) (DAS) (DDS) (DG) (DKD) (DVS) (GDG) (GDS) (GGS) (GKG) (GSD) (GPS) (GRS) (GS) (HDG) (HKS) (HPS) (IDS) (IS) (JAS) (JDG) (JG) (JND) (JPS) (KBG) (KCS) (KDS) (KKD) (KKS) (KMD) Kratu Das (KRD) Krishna Kshetra Swami Lokanath Swami Matsya Avatara Das Mahaman Das Mahatma Das Mukunda Goswami Manonatha Das Madhusevita Das Mahavisnu Goswami Mahavishnu Swami Niranjana Swami Navayogendra Swami Prahladananda Swami Purnacandra Goswami Paramananda Das Prithu Das Param Gati Das Partha Sarathi Das Goswami Purusatraya Swami Prabhavisnu Das Radha Govinda Swami Radhanath Swami Romapada Swami Rohini Suta Das Rtadhvaja Swami Ravindra Svarupa Das Samik Rsi Das Sankarshan Das Satyadeva Das Satsvarupa Das Goswami Sridhar Swami Suresvara Das Smita Krsna Swami Sacinandana Swami Somaka Swami Sivarama Swami Suhotra Swami Subhag Swami Tamal Krishna Goswami Trivikrama Swami Virabahu Das Vipramukhya Swami Varsana Swami Vaisesika Das Vegavan Das (KRKS) (LOK) (MAD) (MMD) (MD) (MG) (MND) (MSD) (MVG) (MVS) (NRS) (NYS) (PAS) (PCD) (PD) (PDA) (PGS) (PSDG) (PTS) (PVS) (RGS) (RNS) (RPS) (RSD) (RTS) (RVSD) (SRD) (SDA) (SDD) (SDG) (SDHS) (SED) (SKS) (SNS) (SOS) (SRS) (SS) (SSM) (TKG) (TVS) (VBD) (VMS) (VS) (VSD) (VVD) Vedavyasapriya Swami (VVPS)

IV) 429.2 Law Book Committee Law Book — Content Layout — 2019 [Rule of order] (Proposed by Nrsimha Kavaca Das and Sponsored by Madhu Sevita Das and Praghosa Das)

Whereas entering data into the Law Book Database is very time consuming and will be greatly simplified if the content and structure of proposals and resolutions match the database data entry fields; Whereas there are many resolutions that have titles that do not assist the user in understanding the content of the resolution, such as in 2001 a proposal was submitted named, “Show cause notice”.

The proposal was actually informing the GBC that a show cause notice relating to Adridharan Das was pending before the high court. This is not apparent from the title. Whereas crafting ISKCON legislation is often a very detailed and time-consuming task and if ISKCON’s legislators have sufficient information on hand they will gain a deeper understanding of the thought process and background that led to such resolutions being drafted and passed;

Resolved: All proposals and resolutions must include the following data fields in the order as listed below: Section Title Year Meeting Category Presentation of proposal Resolution Tags Published Amendment Proposed by Sponsored by Footnotes to resolution Explanatory notes: Section — according to “Sections used to sort resolutions — 2019” Title — Clear title that gives the reader a clear understanding of the content of the resolution. Title must also include the year it was passed. This will facilitate finding relevant resolutions. Year — year resolution passed Meeting — AGM, MGM or other Category — must be defined according to “Categories of resolutions — 2019.” Presentation of proposal — where applicable, all proposals should include. Resolution Tags — this will enable search feature. Published — is this resolution to be published or unpublished. Amendment — is this an amendment to another resolution. Identify other resolution.

GURU/SANNYASA

Decisions regarding individuals:

301.07: ISKCON Members: Individual devotees

[Title] — Narahari dasa’s Suspension as an Initiating Guru in ISKCON — 2024

[Meeting] – Online General Meeting

[Category] – Statement

[Date passed] — July 24, 2024

Whereas the GBC Body suspended Narahari dasa from giving initiations in 2023;

Whereas that suspension order expires on February 19, 2025;

Whereas Narahari dasa has definitely been repeatedly reminded about this suspension order;

Whereas Narahari dasa has chosen to ignore this order;

Whereas Narahari dasa’s initiations have violated several ISKCON laws

Therefore, it is resolved that:

1. Initiations by Narahari dasa (ACBSP) after February 20, 2020, are not recognized in ISKCON. 2. Narahari dasa’s suspension as a initiating guru within ISKCON will continue indefinitely until he resolves the previously-mentioned issues to the agreement of the Guru Services Committee and the GBC Body.

3. Narahari dasa’s and his “disciples” association with any ISKCON temple will be left up to the local authorities and the local GBC.

GBC decision concerning Ananda Caitanya dasa's appeal — 2021

[Meeting] – Online AGM (passed on April 2, 2021)

[Category] – Administrative order

Whereas Ananda Caitanya dasa (BCAIS) and the lady with whom he had a relationship confessed that, while he was a sannyasi, they engaged in illicit sex on a number of occasions; Whereas Ananda Caitanya dasa, on numerous occasions, even during interviews in a formal investigation into his actions, lied concerning the allegations of his deviations as a sannyasi; Whereas Ananda Caitanya dasa committed numerous offenses against those conducting the investigation into his actions; Whereas Ananda Caitanya dasa violated the terms of his probation as given in GBC resolution (301.6 of 2020) RESOLVED: Two committees will be formed to monitor Ananda Caitanya dasa. The first committee, an International committee, will be comprised of Bhakti Vijnana Goswami, Bhakti Caitanya Swami, Caitanya Candra Carana dasa, and Acyutatma dasa. This Committee will monitor Ananda Caitanya dasa's general behavior and his adherence to the GBC's decision and restrictions resulting from his deviations. The second committee, a Local committee, will be comprised of the Lithuanian national leadership headed by Dhruvananda dasa. This committee will monitor Ananda Caitanya dasa's services and adherence to the GBC resolution in Lithuania. Ananda Caitanya dasa will remain in Lithuania under the supervision of the local leadership for a period of two years effective from the date of this resolution. Under their guidance and supervision, he will be encouraged to serve in whatever capacity they see as appropriate. In Lithuania, during the next two years effective from the date of this resolution, Ananda Caitanya dasa will not be permitted to give classes, neither in person nor online nor lead kirtans in any ISKCON temple, ISKCON centre, and/or ISKCON related organisations and/or congregations in Lithuania. Ananda Caitanya dasa will be encouraged to serve senior devotees around the world in some non-public setting, such as translating their lectures off-line. The Lithuanian leadership will give a semi-annual report and recommendations concerning Ananda Caitanya dasa to the International committee. After two years, effective from the date of this resolution, the International and Local committees will decide on which restrictions in Lithuania, which include, but are not limited to, preaching and leading kirtans will continued to be imposed on Ananda Caitanya dasa. It is suggested that the local authorities consider obtaining professional counseling to help Ananda Caitanya dasa. GBC Resolution 301.06 of 2020, which dealt with the possible future reinstatement of Ananda Caitanya dasa as an ISKCON sannyasi, is hereby rescinded. Outside of Lithuania, Ananda Caitanya dasa, for an indefinite period of time, effective from the date of this resolution, is not allowed to give classes, lead kirtans, either in person and/or online, or take any leadership position in any ISKCON temple, ISKCON centre, and/or ISKCON related organisations and/or congregations worldwide. The international committee can, after a period of 3 years, effective from the date of this resolution, submit a request to the GBC that resolution be modified or rescinded. When wearing dhoti and kurta Ananda Caitanya dasa must not dress

in saffron. Any violations by Ananda Caitanya dasa of any or all of the above restrictions will result in further disciplinary measures being imposed upon him.

(2018) 317: Regarding Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Swami

Whereas the GBC Executive Committee suspended Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Swami as an initiating guru effective May 8, 2017 due to his inappropriate and erratic behavior; Whereas after meeting with Maharaja on February 8 2018, the GBC Body has decided that existing restrictions on him should be continued; Whereas the GBC is the well-wisher of Maharaja and recognizes that he is not well and needs our support as well as appropriate boundaries; Resolved: The existing restrictions that Bhakti Visrambha Madhava Swami shall not initiate or receive any public worship will continue indefinitely or until further review by the GBC. In addition, Maharaja is not allowed to give any kind of formal class or speak as a representative of ISKCON at any ISKCON Temple or ISKCON related program. We further advise and direct Maharaja to reside at the ISKCON Vrindavan Community, where he has ashram facilities, or at the ISKCON Juhu Temple, where the leaders are happy to accommodate Maharaja's stay. A letter explaining the GBC's concerns and recommendations about Maharaja's health and status, as well as the well-being of his disciples, will also be distributed.

General Policies and laws:

436.04: Guru Services Committee: Policy manual

[Title] – Acceptance of the Guru Services Committee policy manual — 2025

[Meeting] – Annual General Meeting

[Category] – Statement

[Date passed] – February 23, 2025

Whereas ISKCON Law does not at present contain a comprehensive statement on the handling of complaints against ISKCON gurus;

Whereas the Guru Services Committee has drafted a Guru Services Policy Manual and has submitted it for approval on December 8, 2022

Therefore, it is resolved that:

That the Guru Services Policy Manual as attached is approved as the methodology for dealing with complaints against ISKCON gurus by the Guru Services Committee.

Initiating in the presence of one's diksha guru:

Section 700: Gurus and disciples 702.02: ISKCON Spiritual masters: Regulations

[Title] — Initiating in the Presence of One's Diksa-guru — 2024

[Meeting] — Annual General Meeting

[Category] – Governing Law

[Date passed] — March 9, 2024 Premise:

Although the nomenclature of the proposal is “Initiating in the presence of one’s Diksa Guru”, the proposers are of the opinion that the essence of it, namely:

- a) Keeping the centrality of the Founder Acarya in the lives of the future generations of both gurus and disciples,
- b) Having gurus with an appropriate level of training, advancement, maturity and being of high character, and
- c) Maintaining the unity of the movement by having gurus and disciples remaining loyal and obedient to ISKCON and the GBC Body, will be fundamental in any resolution dealing with the guru-disciple relationship.

The present proposal is a revisitation of the 2019 Resolution that took a lot of time and energy and was passed near-unanimously by the GBC Body; (this Resolution was then abruptly replaced during COVID through GEM without much discussion by an earlier one that is now current). This revised edition of the 2019 Resolution we are now proposing is more focused on training, less restrictive, and actually consistent with Srila Prabhupada’s instructions and exemplary actions.

Whereas the replacement of the 2019 Resolution with an earlier one had taken place through an insufficient GEM discussion, so much so that many GBC Members hadn’t realized that a change had taken place, Whereas ISKCON Law 7.3.2 now reads: "As taught by Srila Prabhupada, the etiquette of not initiating in the presence of one’s diksa-guru will be upheld in ISKCON.

However, Srila Prabhupada and historical precedents also teach us that disciples may sometimes initiate in the physical presence of their diksa-gurus, if so directed by them. In such a case, the disciple should go through the normal procedure for commencing the service of diksa-guru."

Therefore, it is resolved that: The 2019 Governing Law “Conditions for second-generation Diksa-gurus” be reintroduced in a modified form as follows: ISKCON Law 7.3.2 is amended to read as follows: As taught by Srila Prabhupada, the etiquette of not initiating in the presence of one’s diksa-guru will be upheld in ISKCON.

However historical precedents also teach us that disciples may sometimes, in exceptional cases, initiate in the physical presence of their diksa-gurus. The GBC clarifies that an individual devotee taking up the service of diksa-guru in the physical presence of their guru may be allowed as an exception when the following conditions are met.

The Guru Services Committee will confirm that the candidate for becoming a next generation guru has met all these conditions: Mandatory Conditions:

1. The candidate must have been initiated for at least 25 years.
2. The candidate's diksa-guru has affirmed in writing to the GBC Body that he agrees the candidate is suitable for this service and that he gives his blessings.
3. A letter of approval for the candidate to take up the role of diksa-guru has been received from the Regional Council, or if none exists, the National Council, Area Council or, if none of the above exists, the GBC member of that area where the candidate primarily serves or resides.
4. All standard procedures for commencing the service of diksa-guru according to ISKCON law, including required training and other conditions as outlined and codified by the Guru Service Committee, as well as additional appropriate training from diksa- and/or siksa- gurus, have been met.
5. Final acceptance of the candidate to begin initiating is affirmed by a 2/3 vote of the GBC Body.

Additional Mandatory Condition (may be waived by a 2/3 vote of the GBC Body):

- The candidate's own diksa-guru should retire completely from accepting disciples or agrees to immediately retire upon the guru's disciple accepting his own disciples. This is true especially if the currently initiating guru is overburdened with responsibilities and/or is experiencing serious health problems. Factors to be considered by the GBC in determining if a waiver may be approved:
- The area in which the candidate will initiate has a substantial number of devotees wanting initiation, and a shortage of gurus to do this service.
- Language barriers necessitate gurus who speak the local language in specified areas.

Optional conditions that may be applied in an individual case, per a 2/3 vote of the GBC:

- When the candidate takes up the service of diksa-guru he will only be able initiate in a specific area(s).
- The number of disciples the new diksa-guru may initiate can be limited by the GBC. The responsibility of ensuring that all conditions for next generation diksa-gurus as listed above rests with the respective Local Area Councils nominating such candidates and confirmed by the Guru Services Committee.

Section 700: Gurus and disciples 701.02: ISKCON spiritual masters: Approval and regulations

(Amended: Initiating in the Presence of One's Diksa-guru — 2024)

[Title] – Initiating in the presence of one's guru: Amendment — 2021

[Meeting] – Online AGM (passed via GEM on June 8, 2021)

[Category] – Governing law

Whereas there is a need to increase the number of diksa gurus in ISKCON which will necessarily include: 1) requesting and training qualified second generation devotees whose diksa-gurus are no longer physically with us (or in good standing), to take up the service of diksa-guru immediately 2) requesting present diksa-gurus to identify, train, and empower qualified disciples to accept the service of offering diksa initiation, even while they are still present. Whereas it can be clearly observed that whenever Srila Prabhupada spoke about disciples not initiating in the presence of their guru he always referred to it as etiquette.

Whereas on 2 December, 1975 Srila Prabhupada wrote to Tusta Krishna Swami and used the phrase "law of disciplic succession" in the following manner: "Keep trained up very rigidly and then you are bona fide Guru, and you can accept disciples on the same principle. But as a matter of etiquette it is the custom that during the lifetime of your Spiritual master you bring the prospective disciples to him, and in his absence or disappearance you can accept disciples without any limitation.

This is the law of disciplic succession". Whereas even in the one letter where he used the phrase "law of disciplic succession", it is important to observe that he continued to use the same term etiquette while referring to disciples not initiating in the presence of their guru. Whereas considering Srila Prabhupada's consistent and overwhelming use of the phrase "etiquette" without exception including the letter where he wrote about the "law of disciplic succession", the said letter should be seen in the same context of etiquette rather than something distinct.

Whereas we have precedents in our parampara like Srila Syamananda Pandita who authorised his disciple Sri Rasikananda Prabhu to accept disciples in his physical presence but did not stop initiating himself. Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura was also requested to initiate in the presence of his guru(s) and Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura gave initiation even while Vipina-Bihari Goswami and Jagannatha dasa Babaji were present. 20 Whereas Srila Prabhupada was present with us for only a brief period of twelve years. It was natural that in such a short span of twelve years he was insistent about the etiquette of his disciples not initiating in his physical presence. Whereas the current situation is vastly different from the 12 years of Srila Prabhupada's physical presence with us, borne by the fact that some disciples of presently initiating gurus have been in the movement for more than 40 years.

Whereas if a guru were to recommend such long serving disciples to start initiating, then it should be accepted as applying a precedent from our parampara according to time, place, and circumstances.

Whereas to facilitate devotees to serve as diksa-gurus while their own gurus are physically present, is currently a bureaucratic and time-consuming process due to the 2019 amendment of GBC Law 7.3.2. RESOLVED: That ISKCON Law 7.3.2 reverts to its previous formulation thus: “As taught by Srila Prabhupada, the etiquette of not initiating in the presence of one’s diksa-guru will be upheld in ISKCON. However, Srila Prabhupada and historical precedents also teach us that disciples may sometimes initiate in the physical presence of their diksa-gurus, if so directed by them. In such a case, the disciple should go through the normal procedure for commencing the service of diksa-guru (7.4.1).” [Footnotes to resolution] The 2019 amendment being repealed by this resolution is as follows: Section 700: Gurus and Disciples 701.2 ISKCON Spiritual Masters Conditions for Second-generation Diksa-gurus — 2019 [Governing law] Whereas ISKCON Law 7.3.2 now reads: “As taught by Srila Prabhupada, the etiquette of not initiating in the presence of one’s diksa-guru will be upheld in ISKCON. However, Srila Prabhupada and historical precedents also teach us that disciples may sometimes initiate in the physical presence of their diksa-gurus, if so directed by them.

In such a case, the disciple should go through the normal procedure for commencing the service of diksa-guru (7.4.1).” Resolved: ISKCON Law 7.3.2 is amended to read as follows: As taught by Srila Prabhupada, the etiquette of not initiating in the presence of one’s diksa-guru will be upheld in ISKCON. However historical precedents also teach us that disciples may sometimes, in exceptional cases, initiate in the physical presence of their diksa-gurus. The GBC clarifies that an individual devotee taking up the service of diksa-guru in the physical presence of their guru may be allowed as an exception when the following conditions are met.

The Guru Services Committee will confirm that the candidate for becoming a second generation guru has met all these conditions: Mandatory Conditions:

1. The candidate must have been practicing Krishna consciousness for not less than 25 years
2. The candidate’s diksa-guru has affirmed in writing to the GBC Body that he agrees the candidate is suitable for this service and that he gives his blessings.
3. A letter of approval for the candidate to take up the role of diksa-guru has been received from the Regional Council, or if none exists, the National Council, Area Council or, if none of the above exists, the GBC member of that area where the candidate primarily serves or resides.
4. All standard procedures for commencing the service of diksa-guru according to ISKCON law, including required training and other conditions, as well as additional appropriate training from diksa- and/or siksa- gurus, have been met.
5. Final acceptance of the candidate to begin initiating is affirmed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the GBC Body. Additional Mandatory Condition (may be waived by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the GBC Body): The candidate’s own diksa-guru has to retire completely from accepting disciples, or agree to

immediately retire upon acceptance of the candidate to accept his own disciples. Factors to be considered by the GBC in determining if a waiver may be approved:

- The area in which the candidate will initiate has a substantial number of devotees wanting initiation, and a shortage of gurus to do this service. Language barriers necessitate gurus who speak the local language in a specific area(s).
- The currently initiating guru is overburdened with responsibilities.
- The currently initiating guru is experiencing serious health problems.
- Optional conditions that may be applied in an individual case, per a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the GBC:
- When the candidate takes up the service of diksa-guru he will only be able initiate in a specific area(s).
- The number of disciples the new diksa-guru may initiate can be limited by the GBC. The GBC Guru Services Committee shall develop a more detailed process to implement the above resolution.

This process will come for final review by the GBC Body.

Conditions for Second-generation Diksa-gurus — 2019 [Governing law]

Whereas ISKCON Law 7.3.2 now reads: “As taught by Srila Prabhupada, the etiquette of not initiating in the presence of one's diksa- guru will be upheld in ISKCON. However, Srila Prabhupada and historical precedents also teach us that disciples may sometimes initiate in the physical presence of their diksa-gurus, if so directed by them. In such a case, the disciple should go through the normal procedure for commencing the service of diksa-guru (7.4.1).”

Resolved: ISKCON Law 7.3.2 is amended to read as follows: As taught by Srila Prabhupada, the etiquette of not initiating in the presence of one's diksa-guru will be upheld in ISKCON. However historical precedents also teach us that disciples may sometimes, in exceptional cases, initiate in the physical presence of their diksa-gurus.

The GBC clarifies that an individual devotee taking up the service of diksa-guru in the physical presence of their guru may be allowed as an exception when the following conditions are met. The Guru Services Committee will confirm that the candidate for becoming a second generation guru has met all these conditions:

Mandatory Conditions:

1. The candidate must have been practicing Krishna consciousness for not less than 25 years
2. The candidate's diksa-guru has affirmed in writing to the GBC Body that he agrees the candidate is suitable for this service and that he gives his blessings

3. A letter of approval for the candidate to take up the role of diksa-guru has been received from the Regional Council, or if none exists, the National Council, Area Council or, if none of the above exists, the GBC member of that area where the candidate primarily serves or resides.

4. All standard procedures for commencing the service of diksa-guru according to ISKCON law, including required training and other conditions, as well as additional appropriate training from diksa- and/or siksa- gurus, have been met.

5. Final acceptance of the candidate to begin initiating is affirmed by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the GBC Body. Additional Mandatory Condition (may be waived by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the GBC Body): The candidate's own diksa-guru has to retire completely from accepting disciples, or agree to immediately retire upon acceptance of the candidate to accept his own disciples.

Factors to be considered by the GBC in determining if a waiver may be approved: The area in which the candidate will initiate has a substantial number of devotees wanting initiation, and a shortage of gurus to do this service. Language barriers necessitate gurus who speak the local language in a specific area(s). The currently initiating guru is overburdened with responsibilities. The currently initiating guru is experiencing serious health problems. Optional conditions that may be applied in an individual case, per a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the GBC: When the candidate takes up the service of diksa-guru he will only be able to initiate in a specific area(s). The number of disciples the new diksa-guru may initiate can be limited by the GBC. The GBC Guru Services Committee shall develop a more detailed process to implement the above resolution. This process will come for final review by the GBC Body.

Previously:

701.2 ISKCON Spiritual Masters Conditions for Second-generation Diksa-gurus — **2019** [Governing Law] Whereas at the 2019 AGM, it was resolved that, under certain conditions, disciples can give initiation in the physical presence of their spiritual masters; Whereas this resolution called for the Guru Services Committee to develop a more detailed process of implementation; Resolved: That the responsibility of ensuring that all conditions for Second-generation Diksa-gurus as listed in resolution “701.2, Conditions for Second-generation Diksa-gurus — 2019” of the 2019 Annual General Meeting, rests with the respective Local Area Councils nominating such candidates.

Other:

310 of 2015. 24 702.02: Diksa-gurus

[Title] – Increasing the Number of Diksa-gurus – 2021

[Meeting] – Online AGM (passed on July 29, 2021)

[Category] – Statement

Whereas connection via diksa to the parampara is essential for anyone aspiring to advance in Krishna consciousness. Whereas ISKCON needs a sufficient number of initiated devotees to perform many essential services, which can only be performed by properly initiated devotees Whereas ISKCON still has a similar number of diksa-gurus as at the end of the 1980s (+/- 80), while the number of aspiring devotees in ISKCON has increased at least fiftyfold or more since then; thus an acute lack of diksa-gurus has become an ever growing problem to facilitate the increased number of persons now engaged in devotional service Whereas the present generation of diksa-gurus will be drastically reduced within the next decade or so.

Thus a new generation of diksa-gurus urgently needs to be established in ISKCON Whereas ISKCON's demography has changed from ashrama living to largely being a movement of congregational devotees centred around communities; there is an increasing need of a more natural and organic diksa-guru culture in line with Srila Prabhupada's statement in CC. Adi 1.35 purport: "Generally a spiritual master who constantly instructs a disciple in spiritual science becomes his initiating spiritual master."

Whereas we can observe – for different reasons - a clear change in the social culture of the world and therefore cannot take it for granted that smooth travel all over the world will be possible in the future; thus an increasing number of more locally accessible diksa-gurus, each having a moderate number of disciples will be more sustainable and will strengthen our preaching movement as a whole, as well as local preaching projects.

Whereas a considerable number of the local "spiritual masters who constantly instruct their disciples in spiritual science" are often not disciples of diksa-gurus who have left this world. RESOLVED: The GBC hereby states their commitment to increase the number of diksa-gurus in ISKCON by systematically and promptly increasing the number of diksa-gurus before we lose the present gurus. The GBC also accepts the principle that the number of diksa-gurus must reflect, as closely as possible, the actual size of ISKCON, and that the future system leans to having many local diksa-gurus with fewer disciples, rather than having a limited number of international gurus with many disciples. Furthermore, the GBC members will support and promote prominent siksa-gurus initiating while their diksa-gurus are present. The GBC will support programs that facilitate more diksa-gurus while the present diksa-gurus are with us.

Training:

701.03: ISKCON spiritual masters: Qualifications and training

[Title] – Educational Program for those who serve as Diksa- and Siksa-gurus in ISKCON — 2021 [Meeting] – Online AGM (passed via GEM on July 19, 2021)

[Category] – Statement Whereas Srila Prabhupada repeatedly called upon his disciples and followers to qualify themselves as spiritual masters to propagate Lord Caitanya’s mission worldwide; Whereas Srila Prabhupada also wanted the spiritual masters to be qualified, which requires training based on his teachings; Whereas Srila Prabhupada made giving and receiving sikṣa the primary function of ISKCON, and whereas we as his followers should endeavor to enhance and improve this function; Whereas developing such a systematic guru training program can easily avail itself of existing educational initiatives.

Whereas the rapid international growth of ISKCON necessitates a proportionate increase in the number of competent spiritual masters. Whereas this initiative follows in the footsteps of a number of GBC resolutions seeking to address this requirement.

RESOLVED: That the Governing Body Commission of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness accepts and supports the following principles for preparing devotees to act in the role of gurus: All devotees, especially after taking second initiation, are encouraged to undergo systematic training to become qualified to act as spiritual preceptors.

The program shall include but not be limited to:

- demonstrating sastric knowledge (including but not limited to Bhagavad-gita, Nectar of Devotion, Srimad-Bhagavatam and Caitanya-caritamṛta);
- learning about Srila Prabhupada’s biography and position;
- assimilating the proper codes of personal behavior (Vaiṣṇava sad-acara);
- training on balancing life’s priorities and obligations; • how to serve harmoniously within ISKCON;
- relevant ISKCON legislation; 22
- emphasis on loyalty to Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON and the GBC;
- instruction on how to guide and counsel sikṣa- and dikṣa-disciples;
- personal mentorship of candidates; and
- considerations for regional variations. To facilitate participation and completion, the training program shall be self-paced and include a blend of online and in-person training. The Guru Services Committee, the GBC College for Leadership Development and the ISKCON Board of Examinations, shall collaborate in drafting and defining the curriculum, which shall be submitted to the GBC for approval before implementation.

The curriculum shall include ongoing training and support for those serving as sikṣa- and dikṣa-gurus. After an interim period — the length and parameters of which shall be defined separately — such a training program shall become a mandatory prerequisite for commencing the service of an initiating spiritual master.

702.03: ISKCON spiritual masters: Diksa gurus

[Title] – Diksa-guru projects position paper — 2024

[Meeting] – Annual General Meeting

[Category] – Position paper

[Date passed] – August 21, 2024

Resolved that:

The GBC approves the “Principles and Practices/Diksa-guru projects” position paper.

702.03: ISKCON spiritual masters: Guidelines

[Title] – Defining Guru responsibilities — 2025

[Meeting] – Annual General Meeting

[Category] – Guideline

[Date passed] – February 23, 2025

Whereas the primary role of a guru should be to provide spiritual guidance based on scripture. Whereas current legislation on the role of the guru in ISKCON states:

"A guru is one who transmits spiritual knowledge on the basis of revealed scriptures."
404/1999 Therefore, it is resolved that:

The GBC hereby reconfirms that the primary role of a siksa- or diksa-guru in ISKCON is to provide spiritual guidance. In matters outside their expertise and responsibility, they are advised to direct devotees to seek advice from suitably qualified experts.

702.02: ISKCON spiritual masters: Regulations

[Title]– Regulations for commencing the service of diksa-guru in ISKCON part B —2014: amendment — 2022

[Meeting]– Online AGM (passed via GEM on April 24, 2022)

[Category]– Governing law

Whereas Resolution 702.02: Regulations for commencing the service of diksa-guru in ISKCON — 2014 states in part that: 4. Three GBC Requests for Further Review: During the six months from the date of submission of the candidate’s application to the GBC, members of the GBC who question the suitability of the candidate as per the qualifications in ISKCON

Law “Procedure for commencing the service of Diksa-guru” (1b) may file written statements with the GBC Corresponding Secretary requesting further review”. Whereas the six-month period allotted for GBC members to submit their requests for further review of a diksa-guru candidate was originally instituted by Resolution 95 of AGM 1989 with the following rationale: That before officially objecting to any guru candidate’s recommendation, a GBC member should contact in writing the guru candidate and the chairman of the ten-man committee for clarification. If unsatisfied with the reply, or if not receiving a reply within a reasonable period of time, the GBC member may then officially object. To give enough time for exchange of correspondence, the period allowed to lodge all objections shall be extended to six months” [when regular mail was the only means of official correspondence] Whereas modern communication technologies that emerged since 1989 provide for much faster and more efficient correspondence mandated by the above resolutions “Procedure for commencing the service of Diksa-guru” (1b) and 95/1989, making the six-month period initially allowed for filing requests for further review unnecessarily long Whereas with the increase in number of local diksa-guru nominations endorsed by Local Area Committees (that already necessarily include all local Zonal Secretaries), any period of time past two weeks, however extended, will unlikely furnish any essential information. Therefore, it is resolved that: (1) ISKCON Law 7.02.02 “Procedure for commencing the service of Diksa-guru” is amended as follows: 4. Three GBC Requests for Further Review During three months from the date of submission of the candidate’s application to the GBC, members of the GBC who question the suitability of the candidate as per the qualifications in ISKCON Law 7.2 may file written statements with the GBC Corresponding Secretary requesting further review. a. Absence of Three Requests for Further Review If the GBC Corresponding Secretary has not received at least three requests for further review by the end of the three-month period, the GBC Corresponding Secretary shall so inform the Chairman of the recommending Council. Then the candidate, after taking the prescribed vows, may commence the service of diksa-guru in ISKCON. b. Requests for Further Review If the Corresponding Secretary receives at least three requests for further review by the end of the three month period, and if the rationales are deemed legitimate by the GBC Executive Committee per ISKCON Law 7.2 “Qualifications of Gurus in ISKCON”, then the GBC Executive Committee will communicate the reasons for the review requests to the Chairman of the Local Area Council that nominated the candidate and ask for the Local Area Council’s response. The above applies if a single request for further review provides sufficient doubt about the candidate’s good standing as a devotee [rest of 7.4.1.4.2 is unchanged] This amendment applies retroactively to the diksa-guru candidacies currently under the GBC review.

702:03: ISKCON spiritual masters: Diksa-gurus

[Title]– Reviewing the principles of a diksa-guru system — 2022

[Meeting]– Online AGM (passed via GEM on April 25, 2022)

[Category]– Statement

Whereas in 2017, the GBC adopted the position paper 702.03 Principles for creating a diksa-guru system for ISKCON — 2017.

As this paper itself describes, it “explains the authority of ISKCON’s Governing Body Commission (GBC) to create a system for devotees to take up the service of diksa-guru within the society, focusing on the principles behind the system.” However, the paper did not articulate the GBC’s key concerns behind the no-objection process (which would enable assessments of its effectiveness), and a revised paper could make clear what additional managerial safeguards the process could offer that are not already provided for in ISKCON’s managerial organization, educational standards, and training programs for gurus and disciples. Whereas the paper did not justify guru approvals as the only means to regulate the diksa process, and a revised paper could affirm that Srila Prabhupada expects the GBC to govern and lead according to the direction of sastra — which only calls for mutual testing in a diksa process and does not mention a GBC managerial system of oversight of the diksa process; it could explain why the GBC does not vet and approve siksa-gurus, even though sastra equates them with diksa-gurus. Whereas a revision of this paper is important because it is essential that the GBC offers clearer, more complete principles for its diksa-guru system. Therefore, it is resolved that: That the GBC Body hereby approves in principle a revision of its position paper “702.03 Principles for creating a diksa-guru system for ISKCON — 2017.” The GBC Body shall oversee the formation of a group to revise the paper in order to provide clarity on this important topic and to enhance the GBC’s credibility and strengthen its authority.

The final revision will be approved by the GBC Body. Terms of reference for revisions

1. Clarify the basis of support for the current process. Articulate the problems and concerns that the GBC thinks the guru-approval system addresses, to enable assessments of the system’s effectiveness.
2. Explain why the GBC system has two mandatory interventions in guru-disciple relationships, when there is no direction in sastra to accept such third-party approvals. The natural system of siksa gurus becoming diksa-gurus, mentioned by Srila Prabhupada, is supported by ISKCON’s system of assessing, training, and managing, so why employ another level of bureaucracy to approve diksa gurus?
3. The list of approved gurus can result in disciples minimizing their own testing, and the current process clearly distinguishes between siksa- and diksa-gurus, effectively diminishing the status of siksa-gurus, who are at least as important as diksa-gurus. Consider how the more natural system of siksa-gurus becoming diksa-gurus is supported by the current system of assessing and training and explain why ISKCON does not institutionally test or approve siksa-gurus, but finds it necessary to approve diksa-gurus.

Whereas the GBC law passed as resolution 104 of 1999 “COMPLAINTS ABOUT SANNYASIS” states as follows in its entirety: THAT the GBC Sannyasa Sub-committee shall deal with any complaints against sannyasis. An investigation will be initiated if a majority of the members judges a complaint to merit investigation. Decisions will be made by a majority vote. The GBC Executive Committee shall present the decision to the GBC Body either by correspondence or at the next annual general meeting. A decision of the Sannyasa Sub-committee will be overturned by a majority vote of the GBC Body; otherwise the sub committee’s decision remains in effect. A sannyasi who does not abide by the decision shall be subjected to penalties according to ISKCON Law.

If there are complaints against sannyasis who are also GBC members or gurus, the GBC Executive Committee may decide to deal with them itself; however, in that case the Sannyasa Minister should also participate in the decision-making process. Whereas this existing procedure has worked well in some instances. However, it should also be considered that sannyasis often function within the ISKCON structure in much the same way that others do, and thus should be subject to the same service rules as other devotees. Complaints about sannyasis may thus be relevant for both local authorities as well as ISKCON in general and there may be confusion as to whether a particular locally relevant disciplinary matter should be dealt with by local authorities or at the international level by the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services.

This confusion has caused the above ISKCON law to be neglected in some cases and there is a need to rationalize the situation.

Resolved: That the above quoted Law 1999-104 is hereby amended to state as follows: ISKCON sannyasis shall be subject to the same basic disciplinary rules as other ISKCON members regarding the conduct of their services within ISKCON. A sannyasi's behavior that is subject to disciplinary action is specified in the approved ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services' Policy Manual.

However, if any complaint concerning a sannyasi is received by any ISKCON authority then the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services shall be promptly informed of the complaint as well as of any and all subsequent actions taken either by the ISKCON authority receiving the complaint or any other ISKCON authority that becomes involved in the matter. Upon being informed in this regard, the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services shall consider whether the matter is in any way relevant to its mandate to uphold the prestige of the sannyasa asrama. If so, then it may choose to advise the ISKCON authority(ies) that are dealing with the matter locally and/or undertake its own proceedings. However, if a complaint is received directly by the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services and it contains primarily general concerns about the behavior and activities of a particular sannyasi then it can be dealt with directly by the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services according to the following procedures: An investigation will be initiated if a majority of the Sannyasa Standing Committee members determines a complaint to merit investigation. Disciplinary decisions will also be made by a majority vote. The GBC Executive Committee shall present the decision to the GBC Body either by correspondence or at the next Annual General Meeting. A decision of the Sannyasa

Standing Committee may be overturned by a majority vote of the GBC Body; otherwise the Standing Committee's decision remains in effect. A sannyasi who does not abide by the decision shall be subjected to penalties according to ISKCON Law. The appeals process is explained in the Policy Manual. Changes to the ISKCON Ministry of Sannyasa Services' Policy Manual must be approved by the GBC.

Vaishnavi Diksha Gurus:

701.06: ISKCON spiritual masters: Vaisnavi Diksa-gurus [Title] – Vaisnavi diksa-gurus — 2019: Amendment — 2021

[Meeting] – GBC Virtual Meeting (passed on December 22, 2021)

[Category] – Governing law

Whereas the GBC put in abeyance the 2019 Vaishnavi Diksa Guru resolution so that the GBC and the Indian Bureau could discuss the topic in more detail, Whereas representatives of the Bureau and representatives of the GBC met jointly more than two dozen times over the period of a year, Whereas those meetings were facilitated by professional mediators, including a mediator chosen by the Bureau, and another mediator who is a senior member of ISKCON Resolve, Whereas the GBC representatives made a sincere effort to hear and understand the concerns and opinions of the Bureau representatives, Whereas the GBC representatives noted that they valued the time spent with the Bureau members, and that they now better understand the views of the Bureau representatives after those meetings, Whereas the GBC delegation concluded that further meetings, or additional study of the matter, would not provide new insights, Whereas the GBC delegation reported that, based on these discussions, some clarifications of the 2019 Resolution on Vaishnavi Diksa Gurus are required, 701.6, “ISKCON Spiritual Masters, Vaisnavi Diksa gurus—2019.

Whereas the GBC, in its November 17, 2021, meeting, determined that on rare occasions a GBC Resolution may be certified as a Culturally Sensitive Resolution, and thus, within specific GBC guidelines, that Resolution may be applied differently across ISKCON regions, Whereas in 2009 the GBC Resolved (Female Diksa Gurus): The GBC accepts the philosophical conclusion presented in the SAC's Female Diksa Guru Paper that a mature, qualified, female devotee may accept the role of an initiating spiritual master.

23 The GBC Body authorizes local area committees to put forward for approval as initiating guru any devotee in their area, male or female, who is qualified according to existing GBC Law. Whereas, the GBC has worked to achieve consensus and implementation of this resolution for many years, including the above mentioned extensive dialogues with representatives of the India Bureau; Therefore, the Resolution regarding Vaisnavi Diksa Gurus of 2019, 701.6, “ISKCON Spiritual Masters, Vaisnavi Diksa-gurus—2019 is amended and replaced by the following:

1. Vaisnavis are eligible to give diksa within ISKCON provided that they: a. Meet all the qualifications listed for ISKCON diksa-guru applicants; b. Are at least 55 years of age. c. Are in a stable family situation living under the protection of a husband, elder son or son-in-law, qualified householder couple or senior Vaisnava or Vaisnavi sanga;

2. After five years the GBC shall review this resolution to determine if the number of Vaisnavis initiating in any region, or as a total for the world, is in keeping with Srila Prabhupada's indication of "not so many."

Prof. O'Connell: Is it possible, Swamiji, for a woman to be a guru in the line of disciplic succession? Prabhupada: Yes. Jahnava devi was---Nityananda's wife. She became. If she is able to go to the highest perfection of life, why it is not possible to become guru? But, not so many. Actually one who has attained the perfection, she can become guru. But man or woman, unless one has attained the perfection... Yei kṛṣṇa-tattva-vettā sei guru haya [Cc. Madhya 8.128]. 3.

Furthermore, this resolution is designated as a "Culturally Sensitive Resolution." Per GBC law: A Regional Governing Body (RGB), or where there is no RGB, an authorized national council with the support of their GBC, or where a national council has more than one GBC, a majority of their GBCs, may apply to the GBC Body with a request to modify a culturally sensitive resolution for their area/yatra.

Such a request must include the details of the specific adjustment/s they propose to make, as well as the reasons for requesting such an adjustment/s. The GBC Body will give guidelines and set out the parameters regarding what may or may not be adjusted within a culturally sensitive resolution.... Any details, guidelines, parameters, timelines, etc., in regard to its exceptional status must be recorded within the resolution itself. Thus, by designating this as a Culturally Sensitive Resolution, the GBC hereby establishes that an RGB or other authorized ISKCON leadership body as denoted in the above referenced law—may opt out of this mandate and choose to not allow any Vaisnavis to initiate within their jurisdiction.

Any given RGB that does not opt out and proceeds to fully implement this resolution, may, at their discretion, allow any given country within their region to opt out of applying this resolution. Naturally that would only be done after very careful consideration, as the default position is to always fully implement GBC resolutions. In those regions or countries that choose to opt out, if a particular candidate for diksa guru is approved by a special 2/3 vote of that RGB, or other authorized body, per above, then she shall be accepted as a diksa guru in that region or country. A decision to opt out must be reaffirmed by that RGB, or authorized body per above, every five years.

No other adjustments to this resolution are authorized or will be permitted. This resolution lifts the abeyance on this matter stated in resolution

Previously:

- Section 700: Gurus and disciples 701.06: ISKCON Spiritual masters: [Title] – Plan for dialogue on GBC Resolution 701.6, "Vaisnavi Diksa-gurus — 2019" — 2020

Statement RESOLVED: That a dialogue on this topic take place as per the request of the ISKCON India Bureau and a number of GBCs during the joint brainstorming session on February 4. 13 The GBC shall make a final decision on any amendments to resolution 701.6, “ISKCON Spiritual Masters, Vaisnavi Diksa-gurus--2019”, in Pune at the 2020 GBC Mid-term General Meeting.)

- 701.6 ISKCON spiritual masters Vaisnavi Diksa-gurus — **2019** [Governing Law]
Whereas in 2009 the GBC Resolved: 1. The GBC accepts the philosophical conclusion presented in the SAC's Female Diksa Guru Paper that a mature, qualified, female devotee may accept the role of an initiating spiritual master. 2. The GBC Body authorizes local area committees to put forward for approval as initiating guru any devotee in their area, male or female, who is qualified according to existing GBC Law. Whereas, since then, the GBC has worked to achieve consensus and implementation of this resolution; Whereas after much study, dialogue, and research, the GBC has come to the following conclusion. Resolved: 1. Vaisnavis are eligible to give diksa in ISKCON provided that they: a. Meet all the qualifications listed for ISKCON diksa-guru applicants; b. Are at least 55 years of age and in a stable family situation, living under the protection of a husband, elder son or son-in-law, qualified householder couple or senior Vaisnava or Vaisnavi sanga; c. Receive written permission from the appropriate Regional Body or its equivalent, or National Council, to give diksa in that particular part of the world. 2. After five years the GBC shall review this resolution to determine if the number of Vaisnavis initiating in any region or as a total for the world is in keeping with Srila Prabhupada's indication of "...not so many". This resolution lifts the abeyance on this matter stated in resolution 310 of 2015.
- Statement on the Resolution Allowing Vaisnavis to Serve as Diksa-gurus in ISKCON — **2019** [Statement] “Just adhere yourself to the lotus feet of Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Then you become spiritual master. That's all. So I hope that all of you, men, women, boys and girls, become spiritual master and follow this principle. Spiritual master — simply, sincerely, follow the principles and speak to the general public. Then Krsna immediately becomes your favorite. Krsna does not become your favorite; you become Krsna's favorite. (...) So if you want to become recognized by Krsna very quickly, you take up this process of becoming spiritual master, present the Bhagavad-gita as it is, your life is perfect.” (Sri Vyasa-puja Lecture — August 22, 1973, London) “... as far as Krsna consciousness is concerned, everyone is capable of becoming a spiritual master because knowledge in Krsna consciousness is on the platform of the spirit soul. (...) The word guru is equally applicable to the vartma-pradarsaka-guru, siksa-guru and diksa-guru. Unless we accept the principle enunciated by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, this Krsna consciousness movement cannot spread all over the world”. (Caitanya caritamrta, Madhya-lila 8.128 purport) On October 15, 2019, the Governing Body Commission of the International Society for Kṛṣṇa Consciousness (GBC) at their Mid-term General Meeting passed a resolution

allowing, under certain conditions, mature and qualified Vaisnavis to serve as diksa-gurus in ISKCON. The primary bases for this decision are the expressed desires and instructions on guru qualifications of ISKCON's Founder-Acarya, His Divine Grace Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. This resolution concludes over 15 years of the GBC's thorough research and in-depth discussions of: The letter and spirit of Srila Prabhupada's numerous instructions on the subject of the importance and qualifications of various types of spiritual masters for ISKCON as a worldwide movement; Srila Prabhupada's expressed desire that all his "sons and daughters" become spiritual masters; Srila Prabhupada's well-documented personal dealings with and engagement of his female disciples in various roles of spiritual responsibility; Srila Prabhupada's approach to the balance between spiritual and societal roles of Vaisnavas and Vaisnavis in the context of pure devotional service; As appropriate, the broader historical and sastic evidence in regards to diksa in Lord Caitanya's Gaudiya-Vaisnava sampradaya While Srila Prabhupada indicated that Vaisnavi spiritual masters had been historically "not so many", he also taught that the service of diksa-guru required an equally advanced level of Krsna consciousness for both genders that is achievable by strictly following the authorized devotional practices he prescribed. Srila Prabhupada also taught that the service of diksa-guru naturally stems from fidelity to one's spiritual master and guru-parampara , from one's mature preaching of Krsna consciousness (siksa) empowered by such fidelity, and from the sense of selfless responsibility for those souls who become inspired to serve Lord Krsna by such preaching. At the same time, Srila Prabhupada severely criticized and warned against bodily and mundane considerations in regard to the role and eligibility of diksa-guru — whether in the form of casteism, selfish motives for profit, adoration or distinction, or as conformity to social, cultural or modern trends and artificial "equality": "...Generally a spiritual master who constantly instructs a disciple in spiritual science becomes his initiating spiritual master later on. (...) Sri Jiva Gosvami advises that one not accept a spiritual master in terms of hereditary or customary social and ecclesiastical conventions. One should simply try to find a genuinely qualified spiritual master for actual advancement in spiritual understanding". (Caitanya-caritamrta, Adi-lila 1.35 purport) We, the GBC, are convinced that Srila Prabhupada by his devotional potency and perfect guidance continues to empower many devotees, men and women alike, to properly follow and represent his teachings in the mission of spreading Krsna Consciousness; and that some of them thus become competent to solidify their siksa by giving diksa as faithful representatives of Srila Prabhupada. We recognize that some members and friends of ISKCON may object to this resolution based on their own reading of sastra, their own social experiences, or deeply held Vaisnava convictions. At the same time, and on the same basis, others will think this resolution does not go far enough or that the additional requirements are unfair. To assuage these concerns, we will further describe the milestones leading to this decision and the philosophical underpinnings of this resolution in an upcoming document. In the meantime, we humbly request ISKCON devotees to see this resolution in the light of the inclusiveness of Lord

Chaitanya and our previous acaryas, and as facilitating senior, mature and exemplary followers of Srila Prabhupada in their dedicated service to him and his ISKCON. Please bless them in this new important spiritual responsibility. “So one who is spreading krsna-upadesa, simply repeat what is said by Krsna, then you become acarya. (...) Suppose you have got now ten thousand. We shall expand to hundred thousand. That is required. Then hundred thousand to million, and million to ten million. So there will be no scarcity of acarya , and people will understand Kṛṣṇa consciousness very easily”. (Lecture on Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Adi-lila 1.13 – April 6, 1975, Mayapur).

MISCONDUCT/HARASSMENT

Committees and Updates:

Update 2025:GBC Wills Committee Update

The GBC Legal Counsel presented an executive summary to the GBCs regarding the functioning of the GBC Wills Committee. It was emphasized that ISKCON properties must remain within the organization, making it essential for GBC members, sannyasis, and leaders to create their wills and Advance Medical Directives (AMDs). A resolution was passed requiring this, with an explanation of the two-phase process involved. The progress made by GBC members, gurus, and sannyasis in complying with this requirement was highlighted, and the GBC was urged to motivate the gurus and sannyasis in their respective zones to complete the process. Additionally, statistics on the progress of GBC members in fulfilling this requirement were shared, with a reminder for all GBCs to comply.

The Legal Counsel also introduced Acyuta Kesava Dasa and Krisangi Devi, young members of the Wills Committee, who are assisting in this initiative. The GBC was encouraged to offer their support to the committee's efforts.

Child Protection Oversight Committee:

In January, the GBC formally approved the implementation of the enhanced approach to child protection. Recognizing the need for further consultation in certain areas and the desire to pilot this approach, the GBC has agreed to the following measures:

a. Further Consultation: The Child Protection Oversight Committee (CPOC) will engage in further discussions with regional Child Protection Office (CPO) directors, Regional Governing Bodies (RGBs), and other key stakeholders. Recognizing the need for further consultation as raised by the SABHA and others the consultation will address specific topics,

including:

- The role of external investigators
- Handling cross-jurisdictional cases
- Ensuring consistent standards across regions
- Defining and responding to abuse in different cultural contexts
- Managing the potential for regional case review bias

b. Parallel Implementation: The enhanced approach will be implemented alongside the existing ICPO model and guidelines for cases reported after 1 March, 2025. This transition will take place in coordination with the Transitional ICPO Director and the relevant regional CPO directors. At least one case will be tested under the CPOC model as part of this process. The outcomes of these discussions and pilot implementations will be presented to the GBC no later than the mid-term meetings to assess readiness for full implementation. Acknowledging that the transition may require additional time, the GBC has extended the original transitional period to 3 to 9 months and has endorsed the appointment of the Justice Minister as the Transitional ICPO Director to oversee this process during that time.

450.03: ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection: Child Protection Oversight Committee (CPOC)

[Title] – Child Protection Oversight Committee (CPOC) — 2025

[Meeting] – Annual General Meeting

[Category] – Statement

[Date passed] – February 21, 2025

Whereas the GBC recognizes that its resolution dated January 3, 2025, has met with mixed response from the Regional Governing Bodies and Regional Child Protection Offices around the world. We also recognize that the SABHA officially returned the proposal, as SABHA is empowered to do, and asked for the GBC to reconsider it

Whereas after reviewing the SABHA, RGB, and local CPO concerns, we modify our previous January 3 decision with the following additional resolution

Therefore, it is resolved that:

The Minister of Justice will serve as the transitional ICPO Director for a period of 3-9 months.

A comprehensive handover process by the current ICPO Director to the transitional ICPO Director shall be conducted. This process shall include, but is not limited to, the transfer of all case file notes, status reports, and contact information for panelists and investigators, with particular attention to incomplete case files. Additionally, all relevant databases—covering

complaints, offenders, Child Protection Teams (CPTs), and panelists—must be fully transferred by the current ICPO Director to the transitional ICPO Director, to ensure continuity and oversight.

During this transitional time, the Child Protection Oversight Committee (CPOC) is directed to:

1. Engage in further consultation with the regional CPO directors, RGBs, and other stakeholders.
2. Implement the new enhanced approach parallel with the existing ICPO model and Guidelines using cases reported after 1 March 2025, in consultation with the transitional ICPO director and the applicable regional CPO directors, to test the enhanced model, identify problems, and further refine the model.
3. Give special consideration to issues raised regarding professional investigators; cross-jurisdictional issues; inconsistent standards, definitions and response to abuse across regions; regional case review bias; revision/update of existing CPO Policies and Guidelines; funding; etc.
4. Establish regional CPOs in areas where none exist and, where necessary, form collaborative relationships between regional CPOs as well as deploy resources where needed.
5. Provide feedback and results from the trial period to the GBC by no later than October 30, 2025, as to the readiness of the existing CPOs to implement the enhanced approach.

450:01 ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection (CPO): Child Protection Policy Manual

[Title] — Child Protection Office Policy Manual Update—2024

[Meeting] — Online General Meeting

[Category] — Statement

[Date passed] — December 13, 2023

Resolved that: The revised ISKCON Child Protection Office Policy and Operational Guidelines are hereby approved by the GBC. 450.03: ISKCON Child Protection Office: Other [Title] — ICPO Year Plan 2024-25 — 2024 [Meeting] — Annual General Meeting [Category] — Action Order [Date passed] — March 9, 2024 Whereas upon completion of the discussions held on 1st and 3rd March 2024 between Kamalesh Krishna dasa, ICPO Director, and the GBC Body, Kamalesh Krishna dasa acknowledged shortcomings on his part, and the GBC recognized the need for increased support of the International Child Protection Office, and upon Kamalesh Krishna dasa's request to have certainty on his continued role in the ICPO. Therefore, it is resolved that: 1. For 2024-2025, the GBC has increased the ICPO's

budget to USD 54,000. 2. Kamalesh Krishna dasa is reappointed to serve as the ICPO Director for a period of one (1) year, until March 1, 2025. 3. An interim Oversight Committee, as deemed necessary by the CPO Review and Working Committees, shall be appointed by the GBC. a. The primary and ongoing role of this Committee is to ensure CPO policies and procedures are properly followed now and into the future. b. The Oversight Committee shall not participate in any adjudications and/or investigations. c. The Oversight Committee will report to the GBC EC. 4. During the upcoming year the following will be priorities for the ICPO: a. The ICPO Director, is to prioritize the finalization of any pending cases, particularly those in Bangladesh and Mayapur during this year. The GBC will assist in any way it can upon request. b. The ICPO shall work forthwith with the Bharat CPO to create a shared list of review panel members (including several from India) that can be drawn from for any India cases. The ICPO will work with Regional CPOs, including the Bharat CPO, in a way to share information for future functioning. c. The ICPO Director shall support and permit Regional CPOs to establish their own review panels in their respective regions comprising of trained and qualified members. d. All new review panel members are to undergo the foundational adjudication training provided by the Justice Ministry and supplemented by the ICPO. e. The ICPO Director shall provide detailed quarterly updates on the caseload and progress reports in a format to be jointly agreed upon between himself and the Oversight Committee. f. The ICPO Director shall provide the Oversight Committee with a detailed annual account of CPO expenses and an annual budget request. g. The ICPO Director undertakes to ensure that he will render his fullest cooperation to the Oversight Committee in respect of sharing information and documents as and when necessary, as determined by the Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee shall monitor progress in these areas and offer its assistance where needed. 5. A Co-Director may be appointed by the GBC during this year to serve in the ICPO. This will be done in consultation with Kamalesh Krishna dasa. 6. During 2024, the GBC will be considering a restructuring of the ICPO, and its processes based on a review from the Executive Secretariat Office (ESO), as well as the policies adopted from the 2023 Child Protection Review Committee and Working Group. The ICPO Director is directed to serve as an advisor to those processes.

450.03 ISKCON Central Office of Child Protection: other

[Title] —Establishing a Committee to Identify CPO Director — 2023

[Meeting] – GBC Virtual Meetings

[Category] – Statement (passed on December 13, 2023)

Resolved that: The GBC hereby forms a committee composed of the Executive Support Office, along with Navin Krishna Das, Champakalata Devi, Chaitanya Mangala Das, Govinda Lilamrita Devi, the regional CPO Directors, and the CPO advisor Anuttama Das, to

identify qualified candidates for CPO directorship. The current CPO Director, Kamalesh Krishna Das, will be consulted in this process.

201.02: GBC Body: Regulations

[Title]– GBC non-intervention in the functioning of its deputed agencies — 2022

[Meeting]– GBC Virtual Meetings (passed on July 20, 2022)

[Category]– Statement

Whereas the GBC Body (GBC) has created various ISKCON agencies, offices and committees to which it has delegated authority to deal with abuse of minors, leadership sexual misconduct and other transgressions involving ISKCON sannyasis, gurus, leaders and members.

As of the date hereof, these agencies, offices and committees are the ISKCON Child Protection Office (ICPO), the Prevention of Leadership Misconduct Office (PLMO), the ISKCON Sannyasa Ministry and the Guru Services Committee Whereas a few of these agencies, offices and committees, such as the ISKCON Sannyasa Ministry and the Guru Services Committee contain, within their guidelines, provisions by which the GBC may be called to act as a decision-making or appellate adjudicatory body Whereas the GBC recognizes the necessity for these agencies, offices and committees to function without the intervention of the GBC, except in instances where the Guidelines of these agencies, offices and committees provide otherwise. Therefore, it is resolved that: Henceforth, all allegations of conduct risking or resulting in the physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor shall be directly and automatically referred to the ICPO; all allegations of a sexual act or behavior by an ISKCON leader with adults, or other misconduct, which are in violation of the standard of behavior for ISKCON leaders as contained in ISKCON Law as well as the Code of Ethical Behavior, directly and automatically to the PLMO; all allegations of misconduct by an ISKCON sannyasi, directly and automatically to the ISKCON Sannyasa Ministry and all allegations of misconduct by an ISKCON guru, directly and automatically to the ISKCON Guru Services Committee. Where any allegation of misconduct falls under the jurisdiction of multiple ISKCON agencies, offices and committees, there shall be concurrent jurisdiction of each. Except for appointing the CPO and PLMO Directors and approving CPO and PLMO Guideline and policy objectives, the GBC Body shall refrain from intervening in the work of the various ISKCON agencies, offices and committees described herein.

301.03: ISKCON members

[Title] – Policy guidelines for understanding and managing *domestic abuse* in ISKCON —
2020

Guideline Whereas Srila Prabhupada instructed his devotees to be of exemplary behavior at all times Whereas Grhastha-asrama is meant to be an asrama of peaceful coexistence and spiritual progress for both husband and wife Whereas Srila Prabhupada took special care to engage, facilitate and protect his women disciples Whereas our sastra directs all devotees to protect the brahmanas, the elderly, children, women and cows Whereas sometimes Vaisnava husbands in ISKCON communities use sastric references or bring in outside non-Gaudiya Vaisnava cultural norms and use those to justify physical or emotional abuse of their spouse Whereas spousal abuse also harms children and the community at large RESOLVED: That the ISKCON GBC accepts the GBC Statement Against Domestic Abuse and the Guidelines contained therein that give guidance to devotees and also provide resources to leaders and managers who are called upon to deal with domestic abuse in their communities. [Footnotes to resolution] ISKCON North America instituted a Domestic Abuse Policy in 2019. This has been well received. A modified policy for International ISKCON is available.

431.02: ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct (PLM Office)

[Title] – Interim guidelines for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct Office — 2020

Action order Whereas in 2018 it was resolved that The ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct (PLM Office) be established as a permanent ISKCON organizational entity subject to review by the GBC Body (as with other Offices and Ministries).

Whereas one of the immediate goals of The PLM Office was to draft a document of ISKCON International Policies and Procedures for:

- (a) preventing Leader Sexual Misconduct,
- (b) responding to complaints, and
- (c) conducting investigations

Whereas the GBC body acknowledges the urgent need for such guidelines to be implemented in order to facilitate the functions of the Office RESOLVED:

- (i) Until the final PLM Office Guidelines are adopted, the PLM Office Director shall have the authority to accept complaints on a case-by-case basis at his or her discretion. Such complaints shall be handled using the protocols contained in the PLM Office working document.

- The Director of the PLM Office will submit to the GBC Executive Committee the Policy and Procedure Guidelines for consideration by the 2020 GBC Mid-term General Meeting.
- The GBC Executive Committee is authorized to, in its discretion, at any time prior to or at the 2020 Mid-term General Meeting, adopt the Policy and Procedure Guidelines as it sees fit and such revised guidelines will then be the official Policy and Procedure Guidelines of the PLM Office.

[Footnotes to resolution] The GBC spent considerable time discussing the guidelines for the PLM Office, but some details remained to be worked out. Therefore, the GBC authorized to Executive Committee to adopt final policies with minor adjustments, on its behalf. If approved by the Executive Committee, those shall be distributed to the GBC members and made publicly known to the ISKCON society.

(2018)311: Establishing The ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct (PLM Office) as a permanent ISKCON managerial entity

Whereas ISKCON does not have established formal Policies and Procedures to maintain ecclesiastical leadership standards within our Society regarding Sexual Misconduct of Leaders nor does ISKCON have methodologies to respond appropriately when a leader demonstrates Sexual Misconduct; Whereas many large and global religious organizations have deemed it proper to establish such systems; Whereas having such Policies and Procedures in place has many specific advantages including:

- Leaders are trained and aware that Sexual Misconduct will not be tolerated or ignored.
- An injured party will have access to an official process to report Sexual Misconduct and will have confidence that there will be an impartial and non-judgmental response to their complaint.
- If an accused leader is found to be blameless there will be opportunity to re-establish the leader in good grace rather than continue to be subject to rumors. There will be an official procedure to protect the reputation of leaders falsely accused of Misconduct.
- Local GBC and Zonal Supervisors will not shoulder the burden of dealing with these difficult issues on their own and will have the weight of Policy and Procedure and the support of the ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct to assist them.
- ISKCON Leadership is held to a high standard of ecclesiastical, ethical and moral level of behavior which is organizationally supported by Policy.
- Having Policies and Procedures in place creates a safer environment for everyone.

- Lawsuits and other actions against ISKCON leaders and temples may be deferred or prevented if ISKCON responds in a responsible and appropriate manner to complaints.
- Pastoral sexual misconduct is now a criminal offense in many countries and this trend is growing. Religious organizations are responding with Policies and procedures to prevent and manage such cases. ISKCON needs to be proactive.

Whereas ISKCON North America developed Policies and Procedures several years ago including a process for investigating complaints, assisting those who have been injured, protecting the reputation of leaders falsely accused of Misconduct and restricting the services of those who have offended; Whereas the above-mentioned system has been successful in increasing awareness, in raising the standards of leadership conduct and in establishing a process where reports of Misconduct are investigated by devotees with professional training (social workers, lawyers, psychologists, teachers) outside of the affected community with objectivity, equality, compassion and professionalism; Whereas GBC and other leaders from zones outside of North America have been requesting assistance to deal with reports or to establish Policies and Procedures in their zones; Whereas Leader Sexual Misconduct has become recognized as a seriously damaging phenomena in religious and other organizations;

Resolved:

1. The ISKCON International Office for the Prevention of Leader Misconduct (PLM Office) be established as a permanent ISKCON organizational entity subject to review by the GBC Body (as with other Offices and Ministries). The PLM Office Director will be responsible to the GBC EC through the ISKCON Executive Secretariat.
2. The immediate goals of The PLM Office will be to draft a document of ISKCON International Policies and Procedures for a) preventing Leader Sexual Misconduct b) responding to complaints and c) conducting investigations.
3. The PLM Office will collect and provide educational resources, assist Zones in establishing investigative teams to respond to and manage complaints, and research successful programs for education, support and recovery.
4. The Policies and Procedures document shall be developed for review by the GBC at the 2018 Midterm General Meeting. The Deputies will be requested to review this document before it is submitted. At the 2019 Annual General Meeting, a final version of the Policies and Procedures document will be submitted for approval by the full GBC Body.

(2018) 314: CPO Manual Revision

The revised ISKCON Child Protection Policy and Operational Guidelines as proposed to the Governing Body Commission by the Central Office of Child Protection during the GBC Annual General Meeting 2018 are hereby approved by the GBC.

Decisions regarding individuals:

301:05: ISKCON Members: Restricting a devotee's participation in ISKCON

[Title]– Status of Anirdesya Vapu dasa (formerly known as Bhaktividya Purna Swami) — 2022 [Meeting]– GBC Virtual Meetings (passed on December 14, 2022)

[Category]– Governing law

Whereas an October 28 2022 CPO decision determined that Anirdesya Vapu dasa, previously known as Bhaktividya Purna Swami, had engaged in the sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and psychological abuse of a child Whereas it was also confirmed that he had engaged in sexual acts with at least one adult woman over an extended period of time Whereas a further investigation by the Guru Services Committee has confirmed the same Whereas such behaviors are in gross violation of Vaisnava codes of conduct, especially for someone who is trusted to give spiritual guidance as a leader and a guru.

They go against the very principles of care for the vulnerable which should guide our every action and thought Whereas in February 2007 Anirdesya Vapu dasa was restricted from accepting disciples via GBC Resolution 312/B which was based upon a CPO decision from September 2000 Whereas it has been established that Anirdesya Vapu dasa violated that prohibition and initiated devotees after that date Whereas based on the 2022 CPO decision, and the new information about the extent of Anirdesya Vapu dasa's abuses that it revealed, and his other violations, the GBC Guru Services Committee has determined that Anirdesya Vapu dasa is unqualified to serve as either a diksa-guru or siksa-guru (initiating disciples, or offering spiritual instruction) Whereas the GBC Sannyasa Committee has suspended Anirdesya Vapu dasa's sannyasa status, and that is likely to be made permanent in the near future.

Therefore, it is resolved that: The GBC affirms that Anirdesya Vapu dasa is, for the duration of his life prohibited from:

- Accepting disciples in ISKCON; and
- Serving as a siksa-guru in ISKCON; and
- Giving any form of spiritual guidance or instruction, including leading or contributing to any classes, meetings, or seminars of any kind, at any ISKCON temple, or affiliated program, festival, venue, or online forum.

Furthermore, regarding those devotees who accepted initiation from Anirdesya Vapu dasa:

- If such an initiation was before February 2007, those devotees are advised to seek spiritual guidance from senior devotees in ISKCON and to continue serving within ISKCON as they have been doing. They continue to be initiated devotees in ISKCON, in the line of Srila Prabhupada, with the full privileges and responsibilities thereof. Yet, if any of those devotees chooses to seek reinitiation from a guru in good standing in ISKCON, either now or in the future, they are welcomed and encouraged to do so. In such a circumstance, devotees should seek further guidance from their local ISKCON authorities and GBC.

- If such an initiation occurred after February 2007, the date that Anirdesya Vapu dasa was prohibited from initiating, those devotees are strongly advised to seek initiation from an ISKCON guru in good standing, as their current initiation status has no standing in ISKCON. The GBCEC will reach out to ISKCON devotees worldwide, and especially those impacted by Anirdesya Vapu dasa's abuse and other actions to share this information and to offer them appropriate spiritual support.

301:06: ISKCON members: Individual devotees

[Title]– GBC Decision regarding Lokanath Swami — 2022

[Meeting]– GBC Virtual Meetings (passed on July 20, 2022) [Category]– Statement Whereas in 1990 a devotee invited Lokanath Swami to stay with his family for several days while recovering from a serious injury.

The host also “requested Lokanath Swami to train and impart Indian culture to his youngest daughter, who was eleven and a half years old at the time” (the “minor”) Whereas the minor alleged to ISKCON's Governing Body Commission (“GBC Body” or “GBC”) three years later that Lokanath Swami had touched her inappropriately during his stay in the minor's home Whereas the GBC took these allegations seriously and immediately launched an investigation, which included reaching out to the minor and her family. The investigation also included a review by independent mental health experts. The GBC also imposed certain restrictions on Lokanath Swami Whereas the minor (then an adult) raised the issue again in 2010, 20 years after the original event(s).

The GBC then reopened the matter and imposed additional restrictions on Lokanath Swami Whereas there was recently discussion about reopening the Lokanath Swami matter for a third time Whereas the GBC appointed a Review Panel whose work resulted in the Review Panel Report of the Lokanath Swami Matter (“the Report”) Whereas the GBC found the Review Panel's in-depth and professional Report to be helpful and insightful Whereas the Review Panel members, unanimously agreed that:

- The allegations concerning Lokanath Swami had been fully investigated in both 1993 and again in 2010-2011

- These investigations were adequately documented
- Lokanath Swami substantially complied with the restrictions imposed on him
- The Lokanath Swami matter be referred back to the GBC to act on the Review Panel's recommendations Whereas the GBC has adopted the resolution "GBC non-intervention in the functioning of its deputed agencies — 2022", requiring that henceforth any plausible claim of abuse or misconduct be directly referred to the appropriate ISKCON agency rather than to the GBC Body Based on ISKCON's ecclesiastical principles and practices as well as the Report, Therefore, it is resolved that: The GBC Body endorses the Review Panel's recommendation that the Lokanath Swami matter, already twice adjudicated, not be reopened for further proceedings as no new relevant facts pertaining to this matter have come to light, as of the date hereof.

The GBC Body reaffirms its existing policy that an ISKCON Regional Governing Body ("RGB") or similar body has the right to restrict any devotee from visiting and preaching in their region(s), such as has already been done in North America.

Lokanath Swami shall not initiate disciples, in person or virtually, in any region or area where he has not been welcomed by the relevant RGB or similar body of area leaders. In the case of rare exceptions that may be proposed to the RGB (or similar body), the GBC Executive Committee ("EC") will assist in reaching an agreeable outcome. This present Resolution is based on and limited to the facts described herein.

301.06: ISKCON members

[Title] – GBC decision concerning Ananda Caitanya dasa's appeal — 2020

Action order Whereas Ananda Caitanya dasa (BCAIS), formerly Bhakti Swarupa Caitanya Swami, was found to have committed serious transgressions of the sannyasa order Whereas the Sannyasa Committee, considering the evidence in this regard, decided to divest him of his sannyasa title Whereas Ananda Caitanya dasa subsequently appealed this decision Whereas the GBC appointed a subcommittee consisting of Giriraja Swami, Krsna Kesava dasa, and Radha dasi (MG) to look into this matter further Whereas the subcommittee has submitted its recommendations to the GBC Body RESOLVED: That Ananda Caitanya dasa is directed to comply with the following: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

Regular close association and careful mentoring by senior devotees. Such help should be specific in assisting Ananda Caitanya dasa to value the reputation of Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON, the sannyasa order, and the devotee community. He has indicated that Niranjana Swami and Bhakti Caitanya Swami know him and could be effective mentors. Sannyasa status suspended for a minimum of four years. This suspension would run from the date of the original decision, meaning that Ananda Caitanya dasa has served one year of suspension thus far. At the end of the four-year period, his status should be reviewed by the Sannyasa

Committee. If he is not ready for reinstatement, the Sannyasa Committee may extend the suspension after consideration of feedback from Ananda Caitanya dasa's mentors. Limited preaching opportunities. After a period of one year from the adoption of these recommendations, Ananda Caitanya dasa could be given the opportunity to preach at small home gatherings.

If this opportunity is granted to him, we recommend that he be required to obtain the permission of local and regional leaders in the area (after disclosing the terms of the decision against him). In addition, he should be chaperoned by a mature and reliable Vaisnava during any travel or preaching. At the end of four years from the date of the original decision, his mentors can assess whether he is ready to preach on a wider scale. Five-year ban on leadership positions. This was part of the original decision and we believe it is appropriate. This five-year period would begin from the date of the original decision. The general standard used by both the Child Protection Office and the North American Leader Misconduct Committee is that giving Srimad-Bhagavatam class, giving the Sunday Feast or other public lectures, or leading kirtana are leadership positions. Further restrictions possible. It should be made clear to Ananda Caitanya dasa that this remedial program of rectification is an opportunity for him to restore trust and to be reinstated as a recognized ISKCON sannyasi. If he breaches the conditions of probation, then his probationary period should be extended or he should receive further restrictions, including perhaps permanent removal of sannyasa status.

This GBC decision is based on two primary considerations. First, rectification and reintegration are important goals of any system of correction in ISKCON. Ananda Caitanya dasa's offenses do not warrant his being excluded from ISKCON. Thus, we must be concerned with reforming him. 5 Further, a five-year period of prohibition with no mentoring or assessment means that we will have no assurance that Ananda Caitanya dasa has rectified those tendencies that led to this situation. A shorter period of restrictions with careful mentoring and monitoring is more likely to achieve good results.