

While searching for the teenaged mother and her infant child, investigators at the YFZ Ranch observed a number of young teenaged girls who appeared to be minors and appeared to be pregnant, as well as several teenaged girls who already had given birth and had their own infants. Investigators determined that there is a wide-spread pattern and practice among the residents of the YFZ Ranch in which young minor female residents are conditioned to expect and accept sexual activity with adult men at the ranch upon being spiritually married to them. Under this practice, once a minor female child is determine by the leaders of the YFZ Ranch to have reached child bearing age (approximately 13-14 years old) they are then "spiritually married" to an adult male member of the church and they are required to then to engage in sexually activity with such male for the purpose of having children. It is the pattern and practice of the adult males to have more than one spiritual wife resulting in them having sexual relationships with a number of women, some of who are minors. Minor boy children are expected, after they reach adult age and when their spiritual leader determines appropriate, to enter into a spiritual marriage with a female member of the church designated by the leader, which female may be a minor.

Based on the Department's joint investigation with law enforcement of the circumstances existing on the YFZ Ranch, the Department determined that an immediate danger exists to the physical health or safety of the children who are residents of the YFZ Ranch and/or that the children who are residents of the YFZ Ranch are the victims of neglect and/or sexual abuse and that their continuing to reside on the YFZ Ranch would be contrary to the children's welfare. As set forth in this Affidavit, there is a pervasive pattern and practice of indoctrinating and grooming minor female children to accept spiritual marriages to adult male members of the YFZ Ranch resulting in them being sexually abused. Similarly, minor boys residing on the YFZ Ranch, after they become adults, are spiritually married to minor female children and engage in sexual relationships with them resulting in them becoming sexually perpetrators. This pattern and practice places all of the children located at the YFZ Ranch, both male and female, to risks of emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse.

During the investigation, a number of the children interviewed were unable or unwilling to provide the names of their biological parents or identified multiple mothers and were unable or unwilling to provide information such as their own birthdates or birthplaces. The adults on the YFZ Ranch also, in many instances, provided limited information to no information about parentage of the children or other information identifying the proper name, age or date of birth of children located on the YFZ Ranch. This has made it difficult to determine who are the parents of the children located on the YFZ Ranch.