

DECLARATION OF TERESA S. SUMMERS

I, Teresa S. Summers, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 years.
2. The statements herein are of my own personal knowledge and if called upon as witness I can testify competently thereto.
3. In March of 1999, I wrote to the Flag Service Organization branch of the Church of Scientology located in Clearwater, Florida requesting the return of money I had on an account that had been "pre-paid" for future services. I had decided to leave the church after 20 years membership, having realized I had received no real benefit from their teachings and counseling over the years and I was wasting my time and money in further pursuit of their goals.
4. The Church agreed quickly to return the money to me and in April, two representatives of their Office of "Special Affairs" (which deals with legal threats) came to my home with a check. One of these men was Mr. Glen Stilo and I do not know who the other was. I met them by prior arrangement on my back patio.
5. One of the men showed me the check made out to me in the agreed upon amount. He then advised me that I would have to sign a "waiver" before he would allow me to take the check and removed said waiver from a manila folder and handed it to me.
6. I read the waiver and was immediately disgusted, aware of the fact that I was being coerced. The waiver (attached) stipulated that by signing it I was giving up any and all rights to any damages from Scientology in the future. At this point, I was still owed money for an E-meter, courses and auditing which I had begun and had not finished, so by signing this waiver they could preclude me from asking for that money, which per their policies I had the right to request.
7. This waiver also said that by signing, I agreed that this was a "settlement" of "disputed" claims, which was not true. I had asked for the money on account, they wrote and told me how much their records showed I had remaining on account, I agreed to that amount and they agreed to return it. There were at this point no disputed claims.

8. This agreement further required that I never “copy, quote from or reveal” the contents of their Upper Level Materials. This was an interesting inclusion, as I had not learned those materials in all of my twenty years as a member. They are extremely expensive and only a small fraction of Scientologists ever obtain them. At the time, I did not realize that they were not confidential as claimed by Scientology and as they had lead me to believe for years, but that they were in the public domain via court cases, books, affidavits and other forms, had been for many years and were at that time even posted on the Internet. For Scientology to insist that I never “reveal” material that I learned outside of their organization is ludicrous. In essence, it would stop me from reading the materials from any of a dozen free sources and then speaking of them in any form. This is an enforced infringement on my First Amendment rights to free speech.
9. This waiver and agreement also enforces that I “stay away” from all church property and cause no disruption. At the time, I could not fathom what sort of disruption they were referring to. Now, I realize that there are people who picket and protest this organization and should I choose to join them – which is again my right as an American citizen – I am precluded from doing so.
10. After I read this document I asked the men what would happen if I didn’t sign it. The one whom I don’t know stated that I if I didn’t sign it, I would not receive the return of my money. Mind you, this was not money that had been used for services but placed in an account in my name for future use. They had put a lot of pressure on me to pay for many, many services in advance. In addition, this money had come from my deceased husband’s life insurance benefits and had been paid to them 6 weeks after his death. My brother-in-law, Ugo Moi, who is an employee of Flag, had badgered me daily via telephone to ensure that the moment I got this money, I took it immediately to Flag. I did do this, planning to give them a portion of what I had received, but after sitting with their registrar (Louis Schwartz) with my brother-in-law on the phone, I signed the entire check directly over to them. This was \$20,000 and one week later I wrote them an additional check for \$18,000. As soon as I finished my first course, I was asked to give them an addition \$5000. The pressure to give them money never, ever ended.
11. I definitely over extended myself by buckling to their demands for money. However, in all my years as a Scientologist I had read many references where Ron Hubbard states that if someone wants their money back it must be returned. In fact, this is stated in their own Ethics book.

12. At the time that I asked for the return of the \$27,000 being held on account, I needed the money. I have two children, a young daughter from my deceased husband and an older daughter in college. It wasn't long after I gave Scientology three quarters of the total life insurance benefits, believing that the services I purchased would make me "more able" that I realized that these services were doing nothing for me at all. I felt very badly for having succumbed to their pressure to give them so much of that money when it rightfully should have been used for my girls and our future lives together.

So, as I stood on that porch with the OSA agent holding my check in one hand and the waiver in the other, I felt I had no choice but to sign the waiver, and in truth, I did have no choice if I wanted my money back. That was clearly stated. It was under these coercive circumstances that I signed this waiver.

13. I would like to state further that the Scientology organization failed to fully disclose the policies for obtaining the return of my money until after I had asked for it. Only then did they begin quoting policies regarding the "rules" for getting my money back; policies that I had never seen in all my years as a Scientologist, some of those years spent on staff.

14. At no time was I ever told I would have to sign any sort of coercive document that forced me to give up basic, constitutional American rights in order to simply have returned to me the money I had placed on account, future for my own use under extreme pressure from them.

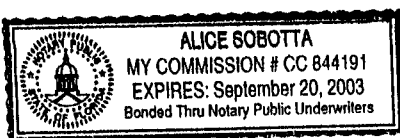
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America and the state of Florida that the foregoing is true and correct.

Total pages: 3

Executed in Clearwater, Florida this 8th of March 2001.

Teresa S Summers (signature)
Teresa S. Summers

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared TERESA S. SUMMERS who presented A. Memo SSe2-817-58829 as identification and who did take an oath and said that the foregoing statements are true and correct.



Alice Sobotta