

November 4, 1977

404-688-3854 (phone)

HOUSE OF RAVENWOOD  
522 Moreland Avenue  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Dear Co-religionists:

If you were asked to prove the validity of your religious beliefs in a court of law - - what would you do? How would you respond? If you can't answer that question, please read this letter very carefully, especially the next three paragraphs.

" . . . . petitioner presented no expert witnesses, knowledgeable authorities, documentary evidence or a trial brief which adequately explains the origins, doctrines, and practices of the Craft of Wicca. During the trial, petitioner only put herself on the stand and had her attorney to give oral statements briefly describing the alleged religion. . . . does not reveal whether this religion has any belief in a deity or what form of worship it is based upon. There is no mention of any religious doctrines or beliefs held by this group or what distinguished this group and its belief as a religion . . . . "

" . . . . petitioner has failed to meet his burden in establishing that the Craft of Wicca is in fact a religion or that the reading of Tarot cards is a religious practice internally related to this religion. Secondly, the practice of fortunetelling infringes upon the rights of others and poses a threat to the public health, safety and peace of the citizens of this community . . . "

" . . . . The Legislators of this City have recognized these evils and have enacted Section 17-11004 in an effort to eliminate such activity in this community. Because of the evils of this practice, Section . . . . "

In spite of Constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion, and in spite of the fact that the Sisterhood and Brotherhood of Wicca is a Church, chartered by the state of Georgia and recognized by the federal government, the Church has now been challenged to prove that our beliefs correspond to the concept of what is or is not "religious" according to Judeo-Christian criteria and governmental guidelines. If they can require that we conform -- so can they require you to conform. Only you can decide if you want to defend your beliefs in court.

We have been called a "so-called religion" and an "alleged religion." Our use of tarot in religion/psychic counseling has been characterized as a tool that preys on the weak, suppressed and impoverished, and . . . incredible . . . labeled "evil". Which of your practices are vulnerable to the same charges?

We are fighting this case on Constitutional grounds. We are defending our charter our status as a Church and the status of every pagan and wiccan church in the country.

We are asking for nothing this time except your energies. We will however, send a copy of the full legal brief submitted by the state to anyone who will send \$1.00 to cover the mailing costs, postage, envelopes and reproduction.

You will be horrified.

NEVER AGAIN THE BURNING : :

