Where To Go For Help

There are groups of parents and concerned citizens in many cities around the country who want to help by providing information, counseling, referrals, and speakers. A nonprofit organization named Citizens Freedom Foundation (CFF) keeps tabs on these cult-awareness groups and can point out the closest one.

Contact: Citizens Freedom Foundation
Information Services
P.O. Box 7000-89
1719 Via El Prado
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
(213) 540-2642

Another group, the American Family Foundation, publishes a newsletter that picks up cult-related articles from major newspapers. AFF also puts out a special edition of its newsletter targeted to college students.

Contact: American Family Foundation
P.O. Box 343
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173

There are only a few mental health professionals in the United States today who have any experience in treating former and current cult members. You can find the nearest qualified psychiatrist, psychologist, or counselor by calling Jean C. Merritt, president of Return to Personal Choice, a national network of mental health workers who accept cult-related cases. She can be reached by writing to AFF.

Father Kent Burtner has recorded his thoughts on cults in a three-cassette tape series. The subjects discussed include what cults are; the dynamics of coercive systems; how people get out of cults; what parents should do; deprogramming, and rehabilitation. "Coping With Cults: How They Work in America," (A-1181-1183) may be purchased from the National Catholic Reporter Publishing Company, P.O. Box 281, Kansas City, MO 64141.

About the Author

Robert W. Dellinger is a science writer at the Boys Town Center. He was formerly assistant editor of Human Behavior magazine.