

Hale church follower sues jail

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A 21-year-old former Joliet resident now in a state prison has sued Will County Jail employees for allegedly denying his religious freedoms by not allowing him to view the "White Man's Bible" and other materials related to the World Church of the Creator.

The World Church is linked to Matthew Hale , a white supremacist who faces federal charges of soliciting the murder of a judge.

Derek Walsh is serving a 10-year prison sentence in Downstate Pontiac after pleading guilty to a 2002 armed robbery of a clerk at a food store in Joliet. The attack was not racially motivated, said Joliet Police Chief David Gerdes.

In the handwritten lawsuit, in which Walsh is representing himself, he alleges he was denied access to religious materials and that when he complained, he was placed in segregation during his stay at the jail in 2002.

The lawsuit, filed in Will County Circuit Court, states that Walsh has been an adherent of the religion of "creativity" since 1999, and in 2002 he became a member of World Church of the Creator. He said the book never was released to him and that jail staff confiscated other information pertaining to the church.

Will County Sheriff Paul Kaupas, who had not read the lawsuit, said Tuesday it is common practice for jail staff to confiscate materials that may incite violence, including pornography, racist materials or those related to gangs.

"We will not let literature back there that will cause problems," Kaupas said. The materials are either returned to the sender or held for the inmate until his release, he said.

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