

**BOOTH v. BOOTH** was a 2004 New York appellate court decision. Ronald Booth and Loida Booth are the divorced parents of three children. The lower court awarded Ronald Booth sole custody, with Loida Booth receiving limited visitation excluding overnight stays.

Loida Booth had been diagnosed with depression and paranoia, but she refused to acknowledge that diagnosis or to obtain treatment for her mental condition. Loida Booth received disability income for that mental condition. (That is curious given the fact that SSA typically requires a history of diagnosis plus treatment to qualify.) The lower court also permitted Loida Booth, who is an active Jehovah's Witness to take the children with her to services at her local Kingdom Hall. However, Loida Booth was specifically prohibited from taking the children with her when she went out in "field service", or door-to-door recruiting. The appellate court stated: "Contrary to the contention of petitioner, the court did not thereby infringe upon her constitutional rights inasmuch as there was no interference with her own religious practices. ... Contrary to the further contention of petitioner, the evidence established that it was not in the best interests of the children to accompany her to the homes of strangers."