1 these rise to the level as a threat to children?
2 A Sorry, that's my alarm again.
3 So because my attorney is not objecting to
4 any of the form of your question, I am going to
5 go ahead and answer it.
6 I believe that I have the experience based
7 on my involvement in sport over the years and
8 based on my observations and the people that
9 surround me that help me make good decisions
10 every day, that when things like this arise,
11 that I have the ability to make good judgments
12 about what the next best steps might be, based
13 on the governing documents that I have and the
14 way in which misconduct and abuse is described
15 and based on the experience I have had as CEO of
16 USA Gymnastics, to address these issues. And
17 the -- one of the most fundamental elements of
18 launching an investigation is substantiating the
19 claim.
20 And the reason that's important is because
21 that under the Amateur Sports Act, both the
22 athlete and the coach have rights of membership.
23 And one of the most important reasons that
24 you substantiate a claim is because the
25 potential for, if you will allow the expression,

1 a witch hunt, becomes very real. And so it's
2 possible that someone may make a claim like this
3 because they don't like someone or because they
4 heard a rumor or because they received
5 information through other third parties.
6 And so, fundamentally, when you have the
7 umbrella of the Amateur Sports Act and the
8 US Olympic Committee and your -- your
9 burden -- the burden of proof kind of weighs on
10 your ability to move forward and think about
11 suspension or think about next steps, you have
12 to take that very seriously, because the coach
13 is as much a member as the athlete.
14 So that's the best answer I can give you as
15 to my perception as CEO and my knowledge and
16 ability to address issues of this type.
17 Q What's more important, a coach's ability to
18 coach or an athlete's ability to participate in
19 the sport of gymnastics in a safe environment?
20 A The most important thing --
21 MR. ATHANS: Object to the form of the
22 question.
23 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.
24 MR. ATHANS: Thank you. Now you may
25 answer.