

JUN 02 2021



**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
CENTRAL DIVISION**

JAMES W. McCORMACK, CLERK
By: _____
DEP. CLERK

CASEY D. COPELAND

PLAINTIFF

vs.

CASE NO. 4:21-cv-477-DPM

**MARTY SULLIVAN, IN HIS OFFICIAL
CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR, ARKANSAS
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
AND STASIA BURK MCDONALD,
IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR
OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS' DEPENDENCY-NEGLECT
ATTORNEY AD LITEM PROGRAM**

DEFENDANTS

**This case assigned to District Judge Marshall
and to Magistrate Judge Ervin**

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF

Introduction

1. This is an action brought to safeguard a fundamental right of speech under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and to protect Plaintiff from unjustified government action.

Facts

2. Since 2012, Plaintiff Copeland has had a yearly contract or been a full-time employee with the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts (hereinafter "AOC") to provide attorney *ad litem* representation for children in involved in dependency and neglect cases with the state.

3. Every year since 2016 (when he became a contractor rather than an employee), Plaintiff's contract with the AOC has been renewed.

4. The term of his present contract ran from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

5. In December 2020, Plaintiff's contract with AOC was expanded to include attorney *ad litem* representation on appeals in dependency and neglect cases. This additional assignment of appeal duties was approved by Defendant McDonald.

6. Plaintiff has never been notified by either Defendant nor any AOC administrator, nor is he aware, of any complaint or concern about his contractual performance nor his ability to provide the service contracted for. An accurate copy of the Copeland/AOC contract is attached and incorporated into this complaint as Exhibit 1.

7. On March 30, 2021, Plaintiff wrote an e-mail to Charlene Fite, his state representative to the Arkansas House of Representatives. The e-mail criticizes Fite's sponsorship and support of HB 1570, a bill in the Arkansas Legislature to prohibit transgender persons gender-affirming procedures. An accurate copy of this e-mail message is attached and incorporated into this complaint as Exhibit 2.

8. That same day, Fite e-mailed a copy of Plaintiff's e-mail to her to Defendant Sullivan, who in turn sent of copy of it to AOC Director of Human Resources Sam Kaufman, with the additional comment, "This isn't helpful, at all."

9. Defendant McDonald, in turn, e-mailed the above three e-mails to

Plaintiff. An accurate copy of this e-mail message is attached and incorporated into this complaint as Exhibit 3.

10. Two days later, Plaintiff received a letter from Defendant MacDonald, which informed him of the termination of his AOC contract, effective April 30, 2021. An accurate copy of this letter is attached and incorporated into this complaint as Exhibit 4.

11. Plaintiff's termination by Defendant MacDonald was done at the behest of Defendant Sullivan and instigated by Representative Fite in retaliation for his negative e-mail to her concerning her actions as his state representative.

12. There was no communication between Defendants and Plaintiff concerning the latter's contract prior to the receipt of the termination letter.

13. Plaintiff's attempts to obtain an explanation for his termination were rebuffed by Defendant McDonald.

14. Plaintiff's communication to Fite concerned a matter of public concern and was written to her in his capacity as her constituent.

15. As such, Plaintiff's communication to Fite constituted speech protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

16. Defendants' termination of Plaintiff's contract for exercising his First Amendment rights is a violation of his right to free speech.

Jurisdiction and Venue

17. Plaintiff realleges, restates, and incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations of the above paragraphs.

18. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. The Court can grant declaratory relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201(a) and 2202.

19. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) as Defendant's headquarters is located in Pulaski County, Arkansas.

The Parties

20. Plaintiff realleges, restates and incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations of the above paragraphs.

21. Plaintiff Casey D. Copeland is an attorney licensed in Arkansas who has been a contracted attorney *ad litem* with AOC since 2012. He resides in Prairie Grove, Arkansas, which is in Arkansas House of Representatives District 80.

22. Defendant Marty Sullivan is the Director of AOC. He is sued in his official capacity.

23. Defendant McDonald is the director of the AOC's attorney ad litem program. She works under the supervision of Defendant Sullivan.

24. At all times described herein, Defendants were acting under color of state law.

COUNT I
(Violation of Right to Freedom of Speech)

25. Plaintiff adopts and incorporates each of the foregoing paragraphs.

26. Representative Charlene Fite was and is the duly elected Representative to the 93rd General Assembly serving District 80.

27. Fite is acquainted with Plaintiff. Plaintiff was a prior political opponent of hers, as both Plaintiff and Fite ran for the position of state representative in District 80 in the 2018 election contest.

28. On March 30, 2021, Plaintiff wrote an e-mail to Representative Fite in which he criticized her sponsorship of proposed legislation curtailing the rights of transgender girls to participate in public school sports with non-transgender girls.

29. That same day, Fite sent a copy of Plaintiff's e-mail to her to Defendant Sullivan.

30. Two days later, Plaintiff's contract was prematurely terminated.

31. Plaintiff received no explanation whatsoever for his early contract termination.

32. Plaintiff has never had any indication from the AOC that his performance under the contract was in any way deficient.

33. In fact, Plaintiff's attorney *ad litem* duties under his contract with the AOC were expanded in December 2020 to include his providing additional services for appeals in dependency and neglect cases.

34. Plaintiff wrote Fite in his capacity as a constituent, which he has done previously, on a matter of public concern.

35. His previous communications with her contained no negative comment and engendered no action on her part with respect to his AOC contract.

36. Plaintiff did not write Fite on any matter pertaining to his contract with AOC.

37. Plaintiff has written other state legislators also in his capacity as a constituent on matters of public concern.

38. Plaintiff's communication with Fite had no effect on the performance of his work as an attorney *ad litem* nor on the efficiency of the public services performed by and through its attorneys in the attorney *ad litem* program.

39. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the abridgement and chilling of free speech.

40. The First Amendment is applicable to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment.

41. Persons violating the First Amendment under color of state law are liable at law and in equity under 42 U.S.C. §1983.

42. The termination of Plaintiff's contract by Defendants was a violation of his First and Fourteenth Amendment rights to free expression.

Relief Requested

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Issue a preliminary and permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants, their employees and agents and successors from violating Plaintiff's right to free speech under the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

2. Enter a judgment declaring that the termination of Plaintiff's contract constitutes a violation of the United States Constitution and ordering Defendants to reinstate Plaintiff's contract, including his previously assigned caseload, and to renew his contract for 2021-2022;

3. Award Plaintiff's costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988; and,

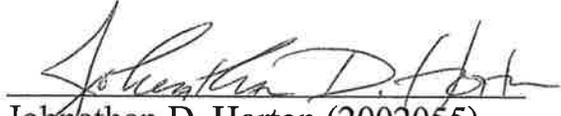
4. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: June 2nd, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bettina E. Brownstein (85019)
Bettina E. Brownstein Law Firm
904 West 2nd Street, Suite 2
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501)920-1764
bettinabrownstein@gmail.com

-and-


Johnathan D. Horton (2002055)
200 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 2300
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-3699
(501) 371-0808 FAX: (501) 376-9442
jhorton@wlj.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiff, Casey D. Copeland
on behalf of the Arkansas Civil Liberties
Union Foundation, Inc.*

Administrative Office of the Courts
Attorney Ad litem Program
Professional Services Contracts

Casey Copeland
FY 16/17- Current FY 20/21

04/26/2021





STATE OF ARKANSAS PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT

CONTRACT #	40000412873	FEDERAL I.D. #	
VENDOR #	100186522	MINORITY VENDOR	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

1. PROCUREMENT:

Check ONE appropriate box below for the method of procurement for this contract:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ABA Criteria | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Proposal | <input type="checkbox"/> Competitive Bid | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Qualifications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency | <input type="checkbox"/> Invitation for Bid | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative Contract |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Source by Justification <i>(Justification must be attached)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Source by Intent to Award | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Source by Law - Act # _____ | or Statute #: _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt by Law | | | |

2. TERM DATES:

The term of this agreement shall begin on 07/01/2020 and shall end on 06/30/2021.
(mm/dd/yyyy) (mm/dd/yyyy)

3. CONTRACTING PARTIES:

State of Arkansas is hereinafter referred to as the agency and contractor is herein after referred to as the Vendor.

AGENCY NUMBER & NAME	0023 Administrative Office of the Courts	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Bureau
VENDOR NAME	Casey Copeland	
VENDOR ADDRESS	PO Box 270; Prairie Grove, AR 72753	
TRACKING # 1		TRACKING # 2

4A. TOTAL PROJECTED CONTRACT COST:

Total Projected Cost of entire project if all available extensions of this contract are completed (up to the date anticipated and stated in Section 13)	\$ 35,000.00
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4B. CALCULATIONS OF COMPENSATION:

For work to be accomplished under this agreement, the Vendor agrees to provide the personnel at the rates scheduled for each level of consulting personnel as listed herein. Calculations of compensation and reimbursable expenses shall only be listed in this section. If additional space is required, a continuation sheet may be used as an attachment.

LEVEL OF PERSONNEL	NUMBER	COMPENSATION RATE	TOTAL FOR LEVEL
Attorney Ad Litem	1		\$31,500.00
\$900 per case based on an average annual caseload of 35 cases			

Total compensation exclusive of expense reimbursement \$ 31,500.00

REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES ITEM (Specify)	ESTIMATED RATE OF REIMB.	TOTAL
Mileage - State Rate		\$3,000.00
Operating expenses (including but not limited to copies, supplies, postage, subpoena fees) - Actual Costs		\$500.00

Total reimbursable expenses \$ 3,500.00

Total compensation inclusive of expense reimbursement \$ 35,000.00

PP

**STATE OF ARKANSAS
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT**

Contract # : _____

5. SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Complete appropriate box(es) below to total 100% of the funding in this contract. You may use an attachment if needed.

Fund Source	Identify Source of Funds*	Fund	Fund Center	Amount of Funding	% of Total Contract Cost
State Funds		HSC2300	330	\$ 35,000.00	100.00
				\$	
				\$	
				\$	
				\$	
TOTALS				\$ 35,000.00	100%

* **MUST BE SPECIFIC** (i.e. fees, tuition, agricultural sales, bond proceeds, donations, etc.)

** "State Funds" is defined as and deemed State General Revenue Dollars. If other state funds are being used such as tobacco funds, general improvement funds, etc., these should be noted. Special revenue funds from taxes or fees generated for the agencies should be shown as "Other" and the actual source of the funds should be clarified in the "Identify Source of Funds."

6. RENDERING OF COMPENSATION:

The method(s) of rendering compensation and/or evaluation of satisfactory achievement toward attainment of the agreement listed herein is as follows, or in attachment no. 3 to this agreement.

7. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE:

State description of services, objectives, and scope to be provided. (DO NOT USE "SEE ATTACHED")

To provide Attorney Ad Litem representation in Dependency-Neglect cases. Contractor understands and agrees that the number of cases assigned at the beginning of this contract and as used to compute annual compensation will fluctuate throughout the contract term as cases close and new ones open. Compensation will not increase or decrease except that if the fluctuation is greater than 25% of the initial caseload and lasts three months or more, a contract amendment may be requested by the contractor. If, in the agency's determination, sufficient funds exist, an amendment will be sought. The agency's determination as to whether sufficient funds exist is final.

8. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

List Performance standards for the term of the contract. (If necessary, use attachments)

The evaluation of satisfactory performance shall be made utilizing the standards contained in Arkansas Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 15 regarding qualifications and standards of practice for attorneys. Performance standards shall include compliance with all contract terms and agreements as well as the Attorney Ad Litem Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

**STATE OF ARKANSAS
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT**

Contract # : _____

9. ATTACHMENTS:

List ALL attachments to this contract by attachment number:

- Attachment 1- Contract and Grant Disclosure and Certification Form
- Attachment 2- Summary of Selection Procedure
- Attachment 3- Rendering of Compensation
- Attachment 4- Vendor EEO Policy
- Attachment 5- Illegal Immigrant Disclosure Form

10. CERTIFICATION OF VENDOR

A. "I, Casey Copeland _____ Attorney _____
(Vendor) (Title)

certify under penalty of perjury that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, no regular full-time or part-time employee of any State agency of the State of Arkansas will receive any personal, direct or indirect monetary benefits which would be in violation of the law as a result of the execution of this contract." Where the Vendor is a widely-held public corporation, the term 'direct or indirect monetary benefits' "shall not apply to any regular corporate dividends paid to a stockholder of said corporation who is also a State employee and who owns less than ten percent (10%) of the total outstanding stock of the contracting corporation."

B. List any other contracts or subcontracts you have with any other state government entities. (Not applicable to contracts between Arkansas state agencies) (If no contracts or subcontracts, please put "N/A" or "None")

C. Are you currently engaged in any legal controversies with any state agencies or represent any clients engaged in any controversy with any Arkansas state agency? (If no controversies, please put "N/A" or "None")

D. The Vendor agrees to list below, or on an attachment hereto, names, addresses, and relationship of those persons who will be supplying services to the state agency at the time of the execution of the contract. If the names are not known at the time of the execution of the contract, the Vendor shall submit the names along with the other information as they become known. Such persons shall, for all purposes, be employees or independent contractors operating under the control of the Vendor (sub-contractors), and nothing herein shall be construed to create an employment relationship between the agencies and the persons listed below.

NAME	RELATIONSHIP

E. The agency shall exercise no managerial responsibilities over the Vendor or his employees. In carrying out this contract, it is expressly agreed that there is no employment relationship between the contracting parties.

AA

STATE OF ARKANSAS
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT

Contract # : _____

11. DISCLOSURE REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 98-04:

Any contract or amendment to a contract executed by an agency which exceeds \$25,000 shall require the Vendor to disclose information as required under the terms of Executive Order 98-04 and the Regulations pursuant thereto. The Vendor shall also require the subcontractor to disclose the same information. The Contract and Grant Disclosure and Certification Form (Form PCS-D attachment II-10.3) shall be used for this purpose.

Contracts with another government entity such as a state agency, public education institution, federal government entity, or body of a local government are exempt from disclosure requirements.

The failure of any person or entity to disclose as required under any term of Executive Order 98-04, or the violation of any rule, regulation or policy promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration pursuant to this Order, shall be considered a material breach of the terms of the contract, lease, purchase agreement, or grant and shall subject the party failing to disclose, or in violation, to all legal remedies available to the Agency under the provisions of existing law.

12. CANCELLATION CLAUSES

A. NON-APPROPRIATION CLAUSE PURSUANT TO §19-11-1012(11):

"In the event the State of Arkansas fails to appropriate funds or make monies available for any biennial period covered by the term of this contract for the services to be provided by the Vendor, this contract shall be terminated on the last day of the last biennial period for which funds were appropriated or monies made available for such purposes.

"This provision shall not be construed to abridge any other right of termination the agency may have."

B. CONVENIENCE CLAUSE:

In the event the State no longer needs the service or commodity specified in the contract or purchase order due to program changes, changes in laws, rules, or regulations, relocation of offices, the State may cancel the contract or purchase order by giving the vendor written notice of such cancellation 30 days prior to the date of cancellation.

13. TERMS:

The term of this agreement begins on the date in SECTION 2 and will end on the date in SECTION 2, and/or as agreed to separately in writing by both parties.

This contract may be extended until 06/30/2021 (mm/dd/yyyy), in accordance with the terms stated in the Procurement, by written mutual agreement of both parties and subject to: approval of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration/Director of Office of State Procurement, appropriation of necessary funding, and review by any necessary state or federal authority.

Contracts will require review by Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee prior to the approval of the Department of Finance and Administration/Director of Office of State Procurement and before the execution date if the total initial contract amount or the total projected amount is greater than or equal to \$50,000, including any amendments or possible extensions.

Any amendment which increases the dollar amount or involves major changes in the objectives and scope of the contract will require review by Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

14. AUTHORITY:

A. This contract shall be governed by the Laws of the State of Arkansas as interpreted by the Attorney General of the State of Arkansas and shall be in accordance with the Intent of Arkansas Code Annotated §19-11-1001 et seq.

B. Any legislation that may be enacted subsequent to the date of this agreement, which may cause all or any part of the agreement to be in conflict with the laws of the State of Arkansas, will be given proper consideration if and when this contract is renewed or extended; the contract will be altered to comply with the then applicable laws.

**STATE OF ARKANSAS
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT**

Contract # : _____

15. AGENCY CONTACTS FOR QUESTION(S) REGARDING THIS CONTRACT:

Contact #1 – Agency Representative submitting/tracking this contract

Stasia McDonald (Name) Attorney Ad Litem Program Director (Title)
501-410-1951 (Telephone #) stasia.mcdonald@arcourts.gov (Email)

Contact #2 – Agency Representative with knowledge of this project (for general questions and responses)

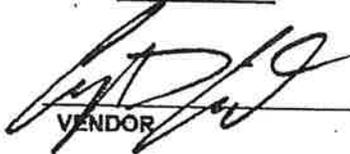
Jennifer Craun (Name) Juvenile Division Director (Title)
501-682-9400 (Telephone #) jennifer.craun@arcourts.gov (Email)

Contact #3 – Agency Representative Director or Critical Contact (for time sensitive questions and responses)

Moshelle Helms (Name) Juvenile Division Data Analyst (Title)
501-410-1956 (Telephone #) moshelle.helms@arcourts.gov (Email)

16. AGENCY SIGNATURE CERTIFIES NO OBLIGATIONS WILL BE INCURRED BY A STATE AGENCY UNLESS SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO PAY THE OBLIGATIONS WHEN THEY BECOME DUE.

17. SIGNATURES:

 2020-05-26
VENDOR DATE

Casey Copeland - Attorney
TITLE

 6/5/20
AGENCY DIRECTOR DATE

Marty Sullivan - Director
TITLE

PO Box 270; Prairie Grove, AR 72753
ADDRESS

Justice Building, 625 Marshall, Little Rock, AR 72201
ADDRESS

APPROVED: _____

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

DATE _____



STATE OF ARKANSAS
AMENDED AWARD
Professional Service Contract

Vendor No. 100186522 Contact Your reference CASEY D COPELAND PA PO Box 270 PRAIRIE GROVE AR 72753	Contract No. 4600046873 Date 06/15/2020 Contact Moshelle Helms Telephone 501-410-1956 Fax 501-682-2662 Our ref. PSC Incoterms FOB DESTINATION
---	---

Send Invoice To:

Ship To:
 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
 625 MARSHALL ST
 LITTLE ROCK AR 72201

Valid from: 07/01/2020
Valid to: 06/30/2021

Target value 42,500.00 USD *** Target value changed ***		✓ (+7,500 increase due to additional duties as appellate attorney) 35,000 TPC original Kt 2017 FY.		
Item	Material/Description	Target Qty	Unit Price	Amount
0001	10090101 PRO SERVICE, ATTORNEY *** Target quantity changed ***	39,000.00	Lump Sum 1.00	\$ 39,000.00

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDOR:

All purchasing rules and regulations defined by the State of Arkansas apply to this document.

Purchasing Official/Fiscal Officer

12/10/20
 Date



STATE OF ARKANSAS

**** AMENDMENT to Purchase Order ****
Purchase Order

Vendor No. 100186522 Contact Your reference CASEY D COPELAND PA PO Box 270 PRAIRIE GROVE AR 72753	PO No. 4501955442 Date 07/06/2020 Contact Moshelle Helms Telephone 501-410-1956 Fax 501-682-2662 Our ref. PSC Incoterms FOB DESTINATION
--	--

Send Invoice To:

Administrative Office of the Courts
625 Marshall St.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Ship To:

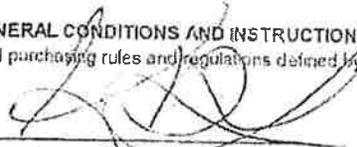
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
625 MARSHALL ST
LITTLE ROCK AR 72201

Delivery Date: 06/30/2021

Item	Material/Description	Quantity	UM	Net Price	Net Amount
0001	10090101 PRO SERVICE, ATTORNEY	39,000.00	ZLS	1.00	\$ 39,000.00
	Still to be delivered *** PO quantity changed *** *** Item partially delivered ***	23,250.00	ZLS		

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDOR:

All purchasing rules and regulations defined by the State of Arkansas apply to this document.


Purchasing Official/Fiscal Officer

12/10/2020
Date

< All Inboxes



To: Charlene Fite

Hide

HB1570

Today at 2:41 PM

Representative Fite,

I just wanted to say how ashamed I am of you for sponsoring and supporting HB1570. Not only does this bill put lives in danger, it fully illustrates the arrogance of you and your party to think that you have the authority to dictate such personal matters. I truly hope and expect the federal courts will strike down this ridiculous law as soon as possible.

Shame on you.

Casey D. Copeland

Arkansas Bar No. 2005022

Child Welfare Law Specialist, naccchildlaw.org

Arkansas Attorney Ad Litem, arcourts.gov

PO Box 270, Prairie Grove, AR 72753

Ph: 479-305-0750 Fx: 479-935-9246

CaseyDCopeland@gmail.com

tabbles	EXHIBIT
	2





FW: Email I received today from Ad Litem

3 messages

Stasia B. McDonald <Stasia.McDonald@arcourts.gov>
To: Cohen Copeland <caseydcopeland@gmail.com>

Stasia Burk McDonald

Attorney *ad litem* Program Director | Administrative Office of the Courts

625 Marshall St. | Little Rock, AR 72201

Office: 501-410-1951 | Fax: 501-682-2662

Stasia.mcdonald@arcourts.gov | <https://www.arcourts.gov/>

From: Marty E. Sullivan <Marty.Sullivan@arcourts.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 4:20 PM

To: Sam R. Kauffman <Sam.Kauffman@arcourts.gov>; Jennifer L. Craun <Jennifer.Craun@arcourts.gov>; Stasia B. McDonald <Stasia.McDonald@arcourts.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Email I received today from Ad Litem

This isn't helpful, at all.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Charlene Fite <cfitev@yahoo.com>

Date: March 30, 2021 at 4:16:48 PM CDT

To: "Marty E. Sullivan" <Marty.Sullivan@arcourts.gov>

Subject: Email I received today from Ad Litem



3:17 PM

< All Inboxes

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9dcb2af236&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1695693404731682491&siml=msg-f%3A1695693404731682491&siml=>



To: Charlene Fite

H

HB1570

Today at 2:41 PM

Representative Fite,

I just wanted to say how ashamed I am of sponsoring and supporting HB1570. Not this bill put lives in danger, it fully illustrates the arrogance of you and your party to think that you have the authority to dictate such personal freedoms. I truly hope and expect the federal courts to strike down this ridiculous law as soon as possible.

Shame on you.

Casey D. Copeland

Arkansas Bar No. 2005022

Child Welfare Law Specialist, naccchildlaw.org

Arkansas Attorney Ad Litem, arcourts.gov

PO Box 270, Prairie Grove, AR 72753

Ph: 479-305-0750 Fx: 479-935-9246

CaseyDCopeland@gmail.com



Charlene Fite, Chairman

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9dcb2af236&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1695693404731682491&simpl=msg-f%3A1695693404731682491&simpl=>

5/13/2021

Gmail - FW: Email I received today from Ad Litem

House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,
Military and Legislative Affairs

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9dcb2af236&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1695693404731682491&simpl=msg-f%3A1695693404731682491&simpl=>

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



*"Supporting Courts,
Ensuring Justice"*

JUSTICE BUILDING
625 MARSHALL STREET
SUITE 1100
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201

April 1, 2021

Casey Copeland
P.O. Box 270
Prairie Grove, AR 72753

Mr. Copeland,

This letter serves as notice that the Administrative Office of the Courts is terminating its attorney ad litem contract with you effective 30 days from today (the last contracting date will be April 30, 2021).

Pursuant to the AAL Program Policy and Procedure Manual, please provide the original copies of all open files, information about all upcoming hearings, information on case plan staffings or other meetings, and the court calendar for all counties where you have been appointed as an AAL. These materials and information should be provided to Janet Bledsoe prior to April 30. You may send via mail (3101 Free Ferry Road, Suite E, Fort Smith, AR 72903), fax (501.682.2662), or email (janet.bledsoe@arcourts.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Smcdonald".

Stasia McDonald
AAL Program Director

