

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NEW HOPE FAMILY SERVICES, INC.,

Plaintiff,

DECLARATION

-against-

18-CV-1419

SHEILA J. POOLE,

MAD/TWD

Defendant.

MONICA MAHAFFEY, on the date noted below and pursuant to § 1746 of title 28 of the United States Code, declares the following to be true and correct under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America:

1. I am an employee of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (“OCFS”) and submit this declaration in support of Defendant’s motion for summary judgment in the above-captioned action.

2. I have been employed by OCFS as the Assistant Commissioner for Communications since June 18, 2015. As the Assistant Commissioner for Communications, my responsibilities include publishing press releases, managing OCFS’ social media and website, and responding to press inquiries.

3. In August 2018, I was asked by the Buffalo News for OCFS’s response to the voluntary closure of Catholic Charities Buffalo. My August 28, 2018 statement read: “Discrimination of any kind is illegal and in this case OCFS will vigorously enforce the laws designed to protect the rights of children and same sex couples. In New York State, we welcome all

families who are ready to provide loving and nurturing homes to foster or adoptive children. There is no place for providers that choose not to follow the law."

4. This statement was made after Buffalo Catholic Charities had voluntarily decided to close, and simply meant that an adoption or foster care agency cannot refuse to provide services based on sexual orientation or marital status under New York State law. This statement applies to all providers equally and was not intended to target faith-based providers, or to suggest that religious beliefs are not welcome in New York State.

Dated: October 7, 2021
Rensselaer, New York

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica L. Mahaffey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Monica Mahaffey