

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

THE DOWNTOWN SOUP KITCHEN d/b/a
DOWNTOWN HOPE CENTER,

Plaintiff,

v.

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE,
ANCHORAGE EQUAL RIGHTS
COMMISSION, and PAMELA BASLER,
Individually and in her Official Capacity as the
Executive Director of the Anchorage Equal
Rights Commission,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:18-cv-00190-SLG

DECLARATION OF F.S.

I, F.S., hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Alaska. I am competent to make this declaration and the facts stated herein are within my personal knowledge.

2. I live in Anchorage, Alaska. In 2007, my husband passed away after battling cancer. And in 2009, I lost my home.

3. I didn't know about the Hope Center and I don't think they had a women's shelter then. So I stayed in other local shelters for a long time. But I was always scared. People at those shelters used drugs and alcohol and there was a lot of fighting. I even saw women trafficked.

4. Both men and women stayed overnight at other shelters. And even when there were separate dormitories for men and women, men would come into the women's sleeping areas at night. That scared me.

5. I have been abused—raped and beaten—including by men I met at shelters. One time, the police had to be called to a shelter because my boyfriend was abusing me. Because of these experiences, it is very hard for me to be in a vulnerable position, like sleeping, around any biological male. I do not feel safe. It brings up my past and is bad for me.

6. That is why the Hope Center's women's shelter has been so important for me. I started staying at the Hope Center's women's shelter in 2016. I finally felt safe. I didn't have to worry that I would see a biological male where I was sleeping and be scared or anxious because of things that happened to me in the past. I felt like I had some privacy again and I felt respected.

7. At the Hope Center, I had a positive influence in my life. I began to work on my self-esteem and my life skills. I went through and graduated from the Hope Center's baking school and its culinary school. In 2017, I got a job at Value Village, where I currently work. I am applying to jobs in the food industry because after the baking and culinary school, I'd like to work in food service. I have applied for housing and I was just notified that I will have my own place in a few months. In the meantime, I am staying at the Hope Center at night.

8. The Hope Center is my home—it has been my only home for two years. And it has helped me so much.

9. I wish everyone could understand what the Hope Center provides to women like me in the Anchorage community. There are no other long term shelters that provide a secure place for women to sleep. And allowing any biological male into the Hope Center would take that security away. It would change the shelter and hurt the women the shelter serves.

10. The fact that the shelter houses only biological women also protects my privacy and the privacy of other women in the shelter. Some women change clothes in the evening and in the morning where they sleep and when they do they are at least partially exposed to the other women in the room. If a biological man were in the room, they would be undressing in front of him. While that would be uncomfortable for anyone, it is impossible for a woman who has been abused by men.

11. Women sleep three to five feet from each other in the Hope Center women's shelter. Especially in these quarters, with my past, I would not feel safe with a biological man in the room while I sleep. I didn't when I was in other shelters.

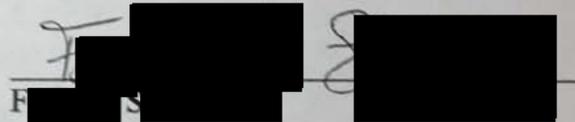
12. I can be around men during the day. I am fully dressed, awake, and I can leave the situation if someone makes me uncomfortable. But I feel too vulnerable at night and in bed. I am not fully dressed. I am not awake. I don't feel like I can take care of myself or leave a bad situation. Because of this, sleeping near a biological male would cause me a lot of distress, like it did in prior shelters I stayed in.

13. I know the individual who filed the complaint against the Hope Center. While I was not there when he tried to come to the women's shelter to sleep, I heard about it from other women. I immediately started praying that the Hope Center would not let him stay.

14. I have made so much progress in life skills, dealing with my emotions, respecting myself and my boundaries. I am so grateful to the Hope Center. I want to continue to feel safe and I want other women to be able to gain what I have gained through the Hope Center's women's shelter.

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 31 day of October, 2018, at Anchorage, Alaska

A signature and name are present but heavily redacted with black boxes. The signature appears to be in cursive. The name is partially visible as 'F...' and 'S...'.

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DECLARATION OF G.O.

I, G.O., declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Alaska. I am competent to make this declaration and the facts stated herein are within my personal knowledge.

2. The Hope Center has helped me so much. I can only describe it as a blessing. About two years ago, I found myself without a home in Anchorage Alaska. I spent one night outside. Then someone told me about the Hope Center's women's shelter. I am so grateful that they did.

3. I went to the Hope Center as soon as I heard about it and I slept every night in the Hope Center's women's shelter for nearly two years. During that time, I also graduated from the Hope Center's bakery program. And I recently started working through

the MASST Program (the Mature Adult Alaskans Seeking Skills Training Program). Two month ago, I was able to get housing of my own.

4. I don't think any of this would have happened for me without the Hope Center. The Hope Center provided me a safe place where I could rest. Being able to rest and feel safe let me focus on other things, like the bakery program and the MASST Program so that I could take care of myself and now get housing.

5. That one night that I slept outside, I could not sleep. I was afraid for my safety. But I was also afraid to go to other shelters because I knew I would not feel safe there. Men and women both sleep at other shelters. Because of some past experiences, I do not feel comfortable sleeping around men. I do not want to do it.

6. When I am in public, I can be around men because if I run into a man that is drunk or makes me uncomfortable, I can leave or seek help. I am fully dressed and awake, so I can take care of my safety. That would not be true for me when I am in my pajamas, sleeping.

7. If the Hope Center had to let biological men into its women's shelter, I would not feel safe. Like that one night on the street, I would not be able to sleep knowing a biological man is sleeping so close to me.

8. I know who the individual is who filed the complaint against the Hope Center. I was not there when he tried to come in to sleep at the Hope Center's women's shelter, but I would not have felt comfortable or able to sleep having any biological male in the same room with me.

9. That is why it is so important to me that the Hope Center is able to continue offering a safe, secure place for women to sleep where no biological men will be present. The beds at the Hope Center's women's shelter are very close together and all the women sleep in a big room. Many of the women use the restroom to change clothes, but some change clothes in that big room, near their beds.

10. I know many women that stay at the Hope Center's women's shelter who have experienced abuse, and like me they also would not feel comfortable changing or sleeping in a room with a biological male.

11. It is also important for the Hope Center to be able to tell people that the shelter is only for biological women, so that women like me know that there is a safe, loving, secure place to rest at night.

12. I am glad that when I needed it, the Hope Center was able to provide me that safe place, where I would not worry that a biological man would be near me while I slept. That made me feel cared for and respected. The staff understood that I needed to feel safe and they provided that for me. They were compassionate. And now I am able to work and once again have my own housing.

13. I want that to be possible for other women like me. If the Hope Center is forced to let any biological man into the women's shelter, that safe place will be gone.

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Defendants.

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DECLARATION OF S.D.

I, S.D., declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Alaska. I am competent to make this declaration and the facts stated herein are within my personal knowledge.
2. I became homeless in Anchorage, Alaska in 2012.
3. I tried to stay at another shelter but there were so many men there that I had to leave. The presence of men triggered me. I was really scared. I was not comfortable being around biological men when I was sleeping because I was abused by men in the past.
4. Then someone told me about the Hope Center. When I walked in, I saw how different the Hope Center's women's shelter was from the other shelters where I had stayed. I knew I was safe.

5. I have been coming to the Hope Center since May 2018 and the place feels like a family. The women watch out for each other and we know that we are safe. The structure has helped me. I am working on my GED. And most importantly, I feel valued and respected. I can truly say that the Hope Center changed my life.

6. The Hope Center's policies have created that change in my life. Those policies protect me. No one can stay at the shelter if they are drunk or high. That assures me that I won't run into anyone unsafe because of drugs or alcohol.

7. The Hope Center provides Bible studies, church service, and daily devotions. People can choose to take part in those or not, but I try to go to devotions every morning. It starts my day off right. I also go to the church services on Sunday. Those services really help me.

8. Most importantly, only biological women can stay in the Hope Center's women's shelter. That has been critical for me because of the past abuse I suffered. Seeing drunk men in a place where I feel vulnerable can trigger me and cause me many problems.

9. I spent time on the streets and I know how hard it can be out there. But if the Hope Center were forced to let any biological man into the women's shelter, I would leave even if it meant sleeping in the woods. I would rather sleep in the woods than sleep in the same area as a biological man.

10. That includes the individual who filed the complaint against the Hope Center. If he, or any biological male, stayed in the Hope Center's women's shelter I would not feel safe and I would have to leave.

11. I have been raped. And rape can happen in shelters, when men come into shelters where women are sleeping. Because of that and my past experience of rape, if I was to see a biological man in a shelter I would be afraid that I was going to be raped again. It would trigger a PTSD reaction for me. It makes it very hard for me to breathe. It's like I cannot get my breath. I know that I am not alone in that reaction. I have talked to other women in the Hope Center's women's shelter that experience a similar thing.

12. Because of that, it is important for me, and other women like me, that the Hope Center can continue to maintain a shelter where only biological women can sleep.

13. It is also important to me that the Hope Center maintain its ability to announce its decision to admit only biological women to its shelter. That policy lets women like me know that there is a safe place for them—a place where they will not encounter any biological men while they are sleeping. That is necessary for women who have been abused in the past.

14. I am grateful for what the Hope Center has done for me. I need their services to stay available for me and for other women.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 29th day of October, 2018, at Anchorage, Alaska

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a black redaction box. Below the signature, the letters 'S' and 'D' are visible, also partially obscured by redaction.