

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE)
DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-IN-ILLINOIS,)
an Illinois non-profit corporation,)
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE)
DIOCESE OF PEORIA, an Illinois non-profit)
corporation, and CATHOLIC CHARITIES)
OF THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET, INC., an)
Illinois non-profit corporation,)
)
Plaintiffs,)

v.)

STATE OF ILLINOIS, LISA MADIGAN, in)
her official capacity as the Attorney General)
of the State of Illinois, ERWIN McEWEN, in)
his official capacity as Director of the)
Department of Children and Family Services,)
State of Illinois, and the DEPARTMENT OF)
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES,)
State of Illinois,)
)
Defendants.)

Case No. 11-MR-254

DECLARATION OF SARAH RIDDLE

The undersigned, pursuant to 735 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/1-109, declares that she is an adult over the age of 18 and is competent to testify to the following matters if called as a witness:

1. I live with my spouse, Katherine Weseman, in Champaign, Illinois. We have been in a relationship for six years. We sought a license for a civil union on June 1, 2011, the first day licenses became available, and entered a civil union on June 13, 2011.

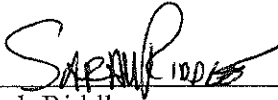
2. Katherine and I want children in the future and we intend in the future to seek to become licensed foster parents in Illinois and in having a state ward placed in our home for foster care and possibly adoption. We are interested in fostering special needs children and children of color. We further have an interest in being available as foster parents to all of the children in the DCFS system and not being denied the ability to foster some children on the basis of their sexual orientation, especially since it may be in a particular child's best interest to be placed with us considering the unique needs of the child and the skills and qualities that we can offer.

3. Katherine and I have friends and family members who were fostered and adopted and have seen the good it can do in the lives of the foster children and the families who make their homes available to them. We are not interested in having biological children and would prefer to expand our family through other means, including through the foster care system.

Under penalties of perjury as provided by law, pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, 735 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/1-109, the undersigned hereby certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to such matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters, the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that he verily believes the same to be true.

DATED: _____

07/22/2011



Sarah Riddle