

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLANDRHODE ISLAND COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, *et al.**Plaintiffs,*

v.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., in his official
capacity as Secretary of the United States
Department of Health and Human Services, *et al.**Defendants.*

Case No. 1:25-cv-00342

**DEFENDANT HHS' NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE COURT'S
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”), Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the Administration for Children and Families (“ACF”), and all other HHS-affiliated defendants respectfully submit this Notice of Compliance regarding the Court’s Temporary Restraining Order (“TRO”) entered on July 28, 2025. Among other things, the Court’s Order directed that HHS and HHS-affiliated defendants provide notice of the TRO’s terms as follows:

By the end of the second day after issuance of this Order, . . . HHS’s counsel shall provide written notice of this Order to ACF and its employees.

By the end of the second day after issuance of this Order, the [HHS] Defendants shall file on the Court’s electronic docket a Status Report documenting the actions that they have taken to comply with this Order, including a copy of the notice and an explanation as to whom the notice was sent.

ECF No. 23, at ¶¶6-7.

Consistent with the Court's Order, on July 28, 2025, counsel for Defendants provided written notice of the Order to counsel for HHS and confirmed that HHS counsel should disseminate the Order to the affected ACF employees and contractors in accordance with the terms of the Order.

On July 29, 2025, HHS Acting General Counsel sent a note to HHS' Executive Secretary to be sent to all ACF leadership, the ACF Grants Office, and the ACF Office of Family Planning Violence Prevention and Services, providing notice of and attaching a copy of the Court's Order. A copy of that note is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Dated: July 30, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES; ROBERT
F. KENNEDY, JR., in his official
capacity as Secretary of Health and
Human Services; and all other HHS-
affiliated defendants,

By their Attorneys,

SARA MIRON BLOOM
Acting United States Attorney

/s/ Lauren S. Zurier

LAUREN S. ZURIER

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Certification of Service

On this 30th day of July, 2025, I caused the within document to be filed electronically. It is available for viewing and downloading from the Court's ECF system, which will serve it upon all counsel of record.

/s/ Lauren S. Zurier

LAUREN S. ZURIER

Assistant United States Attorney



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

The General Counsel
Washington, D.C. 20201

July 29, 2025

NOTE TO: THE ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF
MATT BUCKHAM

SUBJECT: Temporary Restraining Order in *RICADV v. Kennedy*, 25-cv-00342 (D.R.I.)

A group of nonprofit organizations have challenged language in the HHS Grants Policy Statement requiring recipients to certify to certain terms for new awards. *Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, et al. v. Kennedy, et al.*, 1:25-cv-00342 (D.R.I.).

On Monday, July 28, the District Court in this case granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) that prohibits defendants, including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and Acting Assistant Secretary of ACF Andrew Gradison, and any person in active concert or participation with these parties, from requiring the plaintiffs below to agree to the following condition or any substantially similar condition as a requirement for receiving funding under a Family Violence Prevention Services Act State Domestic Violence Coalition Grant (FVPSA Coalition Grant); and otherwise enforcing this or any substantially similar condition against those organizations with respect to a FVPSA Coalition Grant.

- The requirement that recipients must “certify[]” that “[t]hey do not, and will not during the term of this financial assistance award, operate any programs that advance or promote DEI, DEIA, or discriminatory equity ideology in violation of Federal anti-discrimination laws.”

Plaintiffs for whom this TRO is in effect are:

- Idaho Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
- Jane Doe Inc.;
- Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence; and
- Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

HHS and ACF are instructed to treat any actions taken to implement or enforce the above conditions in the Grants Policy Statement and the conditions included in any agreement pertaining to the plaintiffs above as null and void.

This TRO remains in effect until 5:00 pm EST August 11, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Lena Yueh (Lena.Yueh@hhs.gov).



Sean R. Keveney
Acting General Counsel

Exhibit A