

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

APRIL DEBOER, individually and as parent  
and next friend of N.D.-R, R.D.-R., and J.D.-R,  
minors, and JAYNE ROWSE, individually and as parent  
and next friend of N.D.-R, R.D.-R., and J.D.-R,  
minors,

Plaintiffs,

ED Mi No. 12-10285  
Honorable Bernard A. Friedman  
United States District Judge

-vs-

Honorable Michael J. Hluchaniuk  
United States Magistrate Judge

BILL SCHUETTE, in his official capacity as  
Michigan Attorney General,

Defendant.

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**DECLARATION OF WENDY DEBOER UNDER 28 USC §1746**

I, Wendy Lynn DeBoer, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the mother of April DeBoer, and the mother in law of Jayne Rowse, I have known Jayne Rowse for over 11 years. I attended their commitment ceremony on 2/2/08.
2. I lived in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, for forty-two years and have recently moved to Sterling Heights, Michigan about 15 months ago to be closer to April, Jayne and their children: N (3 years old), J (two years old), and R (two years old).
3. I see R, J, and N regularly, at least once a week, and I stay over with them two Sundays a month when both April and Jayne are working.
4. I have had a close relationship with all the children, who call me "Grandma". I was present at N's birth. While no visitors were allowed in the hospital when R was born, I did see her the day she was brought home. No visitors were allowed in the hospital for J, but I also saw him the day he was brought home. I consider all three children to be my grandchildren, regardless of whether April or Jayne is the adoptive parent. I adore my grandchildren.
5. Their family is like any other large family in that it can be raucous at times, with three energetic, rambunctious young children. But the children are always bathed, dressed appropriately, well fed, and reasonably well behaved in public. I have joined them as a family

out for dinner, we have gone to an indoor playground with them, and they have come to my workplace (I work in retail) where I have been proud to introduce them to my co-workers.

6. We have a large extended family, I have three grandchildren besides April and Jayne's children, and I have three great grandchildren with another due in March. April, Jayne and the children are accepted and loved completely by the extended family.

7. I believe that the children have been extremely fortunate to have had the benefit of Jayne and April's love and affection from birth, or almost from birth, particularly because the children have needed so much professional medical help, and April and Jayne are obviously uniquely qualified. I believe that the children could not have had a better experience leading up to their adoption by April and Jayne, and throughout their lives.

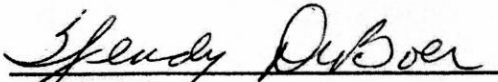
8. I have had an opportunity to observe the children interact with each other and with April and Jayne, and it is clear that they share obvious love, a deep bond and great affection. When either April or Jayne come home, all three come running for their kisses, hugs and hellos from them. They are no different than any other loving, high-functioning family.

9. If anything happened to Jayne or April it would be a tragedy if the children were separated because only one of the parents is listed on the child's birth certificate. Second parent adoption by Jayne and April would be the best result for these three children because it legally confirms they are a family. We know that they are a family, but they need the protection that second parent adoption can bring.

10. I can state with complete confidence that all three children have a close relationship with both April and Jayne and depend on them both as parents. April and Jayne are both loving, nurturing, caring parents to all three children. They share the responsibilities and joys of parenting, and have never treated the children differently in any way based upon who is the legal parent. In my opinion, their care of these special needs children has not just been competent, it has been miraculous and heroic.

11. I declare under penalty for perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing statement is true.

Dated: 3-9-2012

  
Wendy DeBoer