

**Julaine Appling, Jo Egelhoff, Jaren E. Hiller,
Richard Kessenich, Edmund L. Webster,**

Plaintiffs,

vs.

**James E. Doyle, Karen Timberlake, John
Kiesow,**

Defendants.

And

Case No. 2010 CV 004434

Case Code: 30701, 30704

Honorable Daniel R. Moeser

**Katharina Heyning, Judith Trampf,
Wendy Woodruff, Mary Woodruff,
Jayne Dunnum, Robin Timm,
Virginia Wolf, Carol Schumacher,
Diane Schermann, and Michelle Collins,**

Proposed Intervening
Defendants

**AFFIDAVIT OF CAROL SCHUMACHER IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
LEAVE TO INTERVENE OF PROPOSED INTERVENING DEFENDANTS**

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE)

I, Carol Schumacher, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

1. I am a 57 year old resident of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where I live with my life partner, Virginia Wolf.
2. Virginia and I have been in an intimate, loving, committed relationship for thirty-five years. On December 21, 1990, we were joined in a Unitarian Universalist marriage ceremony.
3. Virginia and I registered as domestic partners at the Eau Claire County Courthouse on August 3, 2009 and our domestic partnership became

effective on August 10, 2009. We would instead have entered into a civil marriage if it were legal.

4. Virginia and I moved together to Wisconsin in 1977, when Virginia became an English professor at the University of Wisconsin at Stout. We have lived in Eau Claire since then.
5. I worked as an election specialist for the City of Eau Claire until I retired from that position on September 9, 2008.
6. Virginia has two adult children whom Virginia and I together raised starting when they were four and eight years old. Virginia and I now have two granddaughters and a grandson.
7. Virginia and I own our home together as joint tenants with a right of survivorship. We jointly own two automobiles and have joint checking and savings accounts.
8. Virginia and I have taken what steps we can to ensure that our relationship has legal protections. We have each named the other as the primary beneficiary in our wills and as the beneficiary for our retirement benefits and life insurance policies. We have also named each other in financial and health care powers of attorney.
9. Several years ago, Virginia was taken to the emergency room and the nurse refused to allow me to be with her. I insisted that I was Virginia's partner and eventually the nurse relented. However, I have worried since then that I would be denied access to Virginia when she most needs me. For that reason, the new legal protections for domestic partners' right to visit each other in the hospital and in other care facilities are very important to me.
10. Virginia is the person who knows me best, including my health history, medical conditions, and views about end-of-life decisions. If for some reason my power of attorney were to be unavailable to Virginia or a medical provider were to refuse to follow it, the legal protections to us as domestic partners make me feel safer. For example, I understand that Virginia could consent to my admission to a hospice for end-of-life care and could agree to my transfer from a hospital to a nursing home or community-based residential facility. Having consented to my admission to one of these facilities, Virginia would be able to make medical decisions for me during my stay there. Since there is no one in my family better suited to make those decisions, these protections are very important to me.
11. Under my will, Virginia will receive the bulk of my property if I die before her. If my will were to be successfully challenged by someone in my extended family, I take great comfort in knowing that Virginia, as my

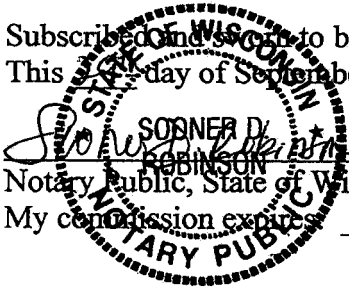
domestic partner, would still receive my assets. Even if my will is not challenged, I understand Virginia has additional rights in the probate process, such as her ability to seek temporary support during the estate administration process, because of the fact that we are domestic partners.

12. Virginia and I are both old enough to know that there may come a day when we are unable to stay at home and care for ourselves. It comforts us to know that our domestic partner status gives us the right to share a nursing home room if we both need nursing home care and do not have any medical reasons why we cannot be in the same room.
13. It means a great deal to Virginia and me that we are registered as domestic partners, because it means to us that the state has recognized the existence of our relationship in a few ways. Knowing that we are in a domestic partnership makes me feel more secure and safe about growing older.
14. However, the meaning and status of our domestic partnership is quite different from marriage. Virginia and I still have to explain to people who do not know us what it means that we are domestic partners. If we were able to marry, this explanation would not be required. Marriage would be helpful to our grandchildren who would no longer have to explain to their friends our relationship. Marriage would provide Virginia and me with a great many other legal protections than our domestic partnership. In addition, our marriage would be understood, if not necessarily recognized, when we travel outside of Wisconsin. Our domestic partnership, in contrast, is not easily understood outside of Wisconsin.

Dated September 27, 2010.


Carol Schumacher

Subscribed and sworn to before me
This 27 day of September, 2010.


SODNER D.
ROBINSON
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My commission expires 5/15/11