

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

Plaintiffs,

vs.

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

Defendants.

Case No. 2010 CV 004434

And

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 VIRGINIA WOLF IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
LEAVE TO INTERVENE OF PROPOSED INTERVENING DEFENDANTS**

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE)

I, Virginia Wolf, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

1. I am a 71 year old resident of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where I live with my life partner, Carol Schumacher.
2. Carol 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. Carol and I registered as domestic partners at the Eau Claire County Courthouse on August 3, 2009 and our domestic partnership became

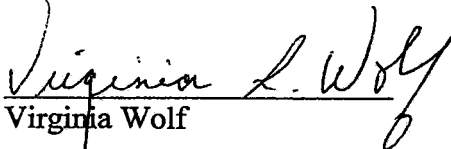
effective on August 10, 2009. We would instead have entered into a civil marriage if it were legal.

4. Carol and I moved together to Wisconsin in 1977, when I became an English professor at the University of Wisconsin at Stout. We have lived in Eau Claire since then.
5. I retired in early 2001 from my faculty position at the University of Wisconsin –Stout. I was employed as a Unitarian Universalist minister from 1999 until I retired from that position on June 30, 2008.
6. I have two adult children whom Carol and I together raised starting when they were four and eight years old. Carol and I now have two granddaughters and a grandson.
7. Carol 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. Carol 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, Carol was taken to the emergency room and the nurse refused to allow me to be with her, telling me that only family could be with Carol. I insisted that I was her family and eventually the nurse relented. However, I have worried since then that I would be denied access to Carol 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. Carol 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 Carol 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 Carol 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, Carol 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. I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder a few years ago and regularly see a psychiatrist for its treatment. Although I hope to never have to be

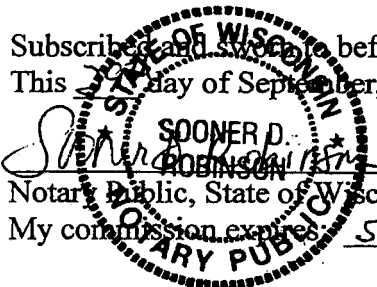
admitted to a mental health treatment facility, I am pleased that Carol as my domestic partner would have access to my treatment records.

12. Under my will, Carol 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 Carol, as my domestic partner, would still receive my assets. Even if my will is not challenged, I understand Carol 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.
13. Carol 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.
14. It means a great deal to Carol 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.
15. However, the meaning and status of our domestic partnership is quite different from marriage. Carol 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 Carol 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 29, 2010


Virginia Wolf

Subscribed and sworn to before me
This 29 day of September, 2010.


Sooner D. Robinson
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My commission expires 5/15/11