



Daphne Scott-Henderson and Ryan Cannon with their children
Sonnet, Sebastian and Autumn

Affidavit of Ryan Cannon

COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN)
)
STATE OF ILLINOIS) ss.

AFFIDAVIT OF RYAN CANNON

Ryan Cannon, having been duly sworn, states as follows:

1. I am one of the Plaintiffs in this lawsuit.
2. I was born on January 12, 1978, and I am 34 years old.
3. I am in a permanent, loving, and committed relationship of seven years with Daphne Scott-Henderson, and we wish to marry. Daphne also has provided an affidavit and we each will try not to repeat what the other has said.
4. I was born and raised in Peoria. I've lived in Illinois all of my life. Currently, I reside with Daphne Scott-Henderson in Champaign, Champaign County, Illinois.
5. I am the Business Manager at PASS Program, a small firm my step-father started 12 years ago. Daphne and I entered into a civil union on June 3, 2011.
6. Daphne and I are rearing three children. We are co-parenting our son, Sebastian (4), conceived through donor insemination, and we share custody of Daphne's two children from a prior relationship, Sonnet (15), and Autumn (12). When I gave birth to Sebastian, hospital staff initially barred his two sisters from my hospital room, refusing to allow them to visit because they were not considered "siblings." It was an upsetting experience, not only for me and Daphne, but for two girls excited to meet their new little brother. Daphne and I know that if we could have expressed to hospital staff that we are a married family, we wouldn't have had to deal with that. No member of a family who has been so close for so long should have to deal with being treated like an outsider.

7. We both planned for Sebastian's arrival as a couple, and conceived him through donor insemination, just like many different-sex married couples do. But unlike those other couples, we can't describe ourselves as a married family, and we face constant fear that we won't be recognized as a family unit. Just like what happened in the hospital, our fear is that we won't be able to be together and take care of each other when it really counts.

8. Daphne and I wish to marry for the sake of our children, and to ensure that Sebastian, Autumn, and Sonnet are acknowledged as members of a legitimate family. I feel that it is important that they all grow up in a married household.

9. I also worry that Daphne may not be considered Sebastian's mother should something happen to me. Marriage would give us added security because it would make clear to everyone that we are a legal family. Many people don't understand what a civil union means.

10. When we decided to have our son together, our responsibilities to our children really hit home. It is deeply troubling to us that we must consider having Daphne adopt our own child, and that we would have to invite case workers and the court system into our lives to show that we really are good parents, and that we love our children. We should not have to do this. We should be able to have the same confidence that we will be treated as a legal family that other families are able to have simply by getting married.


11. My family members have always been the kind of people who believe in standing up for what you believe in and doing what's true to yourself and what's in your heart. So, I think they'll be proud of me for standing up for what I know is right.

12. Daphne and I go through everything together; the ups, the downs, the hurts. For us, there is no walking away. That's not an option for us so we're just in. Whatever happens, we're just in it together; we're a family. That's what marriage means to us, and why we want to marry.

13. Daphne and I are both over the age of 18, have the capacity to contract, are not within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity prohibited by law for a legal marriage, are not wards under a guardianship, and are not legally married to any other person.

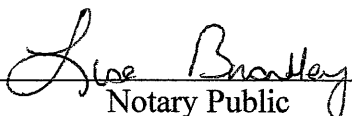
14. On or about the 7th day of May, 2012, Daphne and I appeared in person, prepared to tender the \$60 application fee and identification documents, at the office of the Cook County Clerk. Daphne and I requested an application for a marriage license so that we could marry each other in the State of Illinois. An employee of the Cook County Clerk denied us an application, stating, "according to statute, marriage is between one man and one woman."

15. I hereby declare, under penalties of perjury, that the facts stated in this affidavit are personally known to me, and that they are true.



Ryan Cannon

Sworn to before me this 21 day of March, 2013



Notary Public





Daphne Scott-Henderson and Ryan Cannon with their children
Sonnet, Sebastian and Autumn

Affidavit of Daphne Scott-Henderson

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION**

JAMES DARBY and PATRICK BOVA, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 12 CH 19718
)	The Honorable Judge
)	Sophia Hall
DAVID ORR, in his official capacity as Cook County Clerk,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	
<hr/>		
TANYA LAZARO and ELIZABETH "LIZ" MATOS, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 12 CH 19719
)	The Honorable Judge
)	Sophia Hall
DAVID ORR, in his official capacity as Cook County Clerk,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
)	
<hr/>		
STATE OF ILLINOIS, <i>ex rel.</i> Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of the State of Illinois,)	
)	
Intervenor,)	
)	
CHRISTIE WEBB, in her official capacity as Tazewell County Clerk, and KERRY HIRTZEL, in his official capacity as Effingham County Clerk, DANIEL S. KUHN, in his official capacity as Putnam County Clerk, PATRICIA LYCAN, in her official capacity as Crawford County Clerk, BRENDA BRITTON, in her official capacity as Clay County Clerk,)	
)	
Intervenors.)	
)	
)	

**AFFIDAVIT OF
DAPHNE SCOTT-
HENDERSON**

COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN)
)
 STATE OF ILLINOIS) ss.

AFFIDAVIT OF DAPHNE SCOTT-HENDERSON

Daphne Scott-Henderson, having been duly sworn, states as follows:

- 1. I am one of the Plaintiffs in this lawsuit.
- 2. I was born on June 21, 1970, and I am 42 years old.
- 3. I am in a permanent, loving, and committed relationship of seven years with Ryan Cannon, and we wish to marry. Ryan also has provided an affidavit and we will try not to repeat each other. I am originally from Atlanta, Georgia but have lived in Illinois since I graduated from high school in 1988. I currently reside with Ryan Cannon in Champaign, Champaign County, Illinois
- 4. I graduated from nursing school in Peoria and work as a critical care nurse.
- 5. Together, Ryan and I are rearing three children. We are co-parenting our son, Sebastian (4), conceived through donor insemination, and share custody of my children, Sonnet (15), and Autumn (12), with my former husband. Ryan and I entered into a civil union on June 3, 2011.
- 6. When I take Sebastian to the doctor, there are always issues, even though it's supposed to be on record that I can make medical decisions for Sebastian as his parent. I always have to verify who I am and they always want to call Ryan to confirm. It's insulting. At Sebastian's school, Ryan still has to come in to sign things instead of me

because we want to avoid problems -- it's happened before and it's hurtful, not just to us, but to Sebastian, who is made to feel as though we aren't a real family.

7. Especially because we have a family with children, being legitimized and equal, like married couples, would make a world of difference. It would help the kids talk about their family. For Sebastian, who is only four years old, he just knows he has two moms. We want to be married by the time he starts to understand the concept of marriage.

8. I believe that not being married is unfair to the children. They don't understand why we can't marry. Marrying would send a message to them that we are a legitimate family.

9. When I married a man before, we got a marriage license with a name change; it was so easy and in 10 minutes it was over in one bat of an eye. To think now that I have found the love of my life, and that I actually have to campaign to be able to marry her, is just so different and wrong.

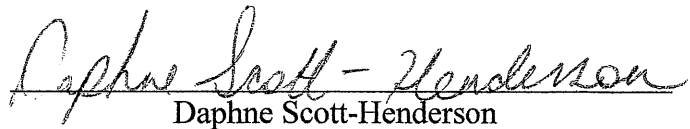
10. Ryan is the person I want to spend the rest of my life with. I don't see a difference between our relationship and the relationship of her parents who have been married for more than 20 years. I want to be equal. For our parents, it would be important, too. They are supportive, and if we are legitimized in the eyes of the law, they could say to their friends and neighbors, "This is my daughter in law" as opposed to have to explain what a civil union is. It's probably even more awkward for them to explain it than it is for us.

11. I don't want to be in a civil union for the next 50 years. It's exhausting!

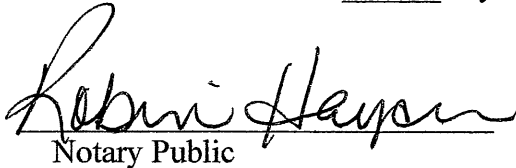
12. Ryan and I are both over the age of 18, have the capacity to contract, are not within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity prohibited by law for a legal marriage, are not wards under a guardianship, and are not legally married to any other person.

13. On or about the 7th day of May, 2012, Ryan and I appeared in person, prepared to tender the \$60 application fee and identification documents, at the office of the Cook County Clerk. Ryan and I requested an application for a marriage license so that we could marry each other in the State of Illinois. An employee of the Cook County Clerk denied us an application, stating, "according to statute, marriage is between one man and one woman."

14. I hereby declare, under penalties of perjury, that the facts stated in this affidavit are personally known to me, and that they are true.


Daphne Scott-Henderson

Sworn to before me this 21 day of March, 2013


Notary Public

