

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COLUMBIA DIVISION**

Walter Brian Bilbro,	)	Case Number: 3:16-cv-00767-JFA
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
South Carolina Department of Social Services	)	
(directors Susan Alford and Dorothy Addison);	)	
Office of Governor, Nikki Randhawa Haley;	)	
Lutheran Services Carolina; World Relief	)	
Spartanburg (Jason Lee, director),	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
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**AFFIDAVIT OF DOROTHY A. ADDISON**

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Personally appeared before me, Dorothy A. Addison, duly sworn, who deposes and says the following:

1. I am over 21 years of age and am personally familiar with the matters set forth herein.
2. I am the State Refugee Coordinator for South Carolina, and am employed in that capacity by the Office of Economic Services of the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

**The Refugee Resettlement Program.**

3. As State Refugee Coordinator, I have been delegated the lead responsibility to ensure overall coordination and integration of public and private resources for the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP), which is a federal program authorized by Title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. §§1521 et seq). I am responsible for monitoring and evaluating all program activities to ensure compliance with policies and instructions that govern the RRP.
4. The Refugee Resettlement Program is designed to “provide permanent and systematic procedures for the admission to this country of refugees of special humanitarian concern

to the United States, and to provide comprehensive and uniform provisions for the effective resettlement and absorption of those refugees who are admitted.” Refugee Act of 1980, Pub. L. 96–212, § 101, 8 U.S.C. § 1521 (note). Specifically, the purpose of the RRP is to promote economic self-sufficiency of refugees at the earliest possible time.

5. The RRP is administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which provides funds, policy, and oversight.

#### **Requirements to be met in order to qualify as a refugee.**

6. The term “refugee” is defined by federal statute as a person who is outside his country and who is unwilling or unable to return because of persecution, or well-founded fear of persecution, on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion (8 U.S.C §1101(a)(42)).
7. In addition to being required to meet the statutory definition, refugees must also be otherwise admissible under federal immigration law. A refugee can be found to be inadmissible for entry into the United States for multiple reasons, including: health related grounds, criminal history, terrorism and national security grounds, willful misrepresentation, and fraudulent documentation.

#### **Vetting of refugees.**

8. The vetting process for refugees is conducted by the U.S. State Department and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) prior to an individual entering the United States as a refugee. The process is as follows:
  - a. Before an individual can be resettled in the United States as a refugee, he must first be vetted through a process which begins overseas and is subject to certain admissions standards (average length of time from referral to arrival in U.S. is 18-24 months).
  - b. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHRC, makes referrals to a United States Embassy or Non-Governmental Organization.
  - c. The State Department then collects biographic and other information from eligible applicants to present to DHS for in-person interview and security screening.
  - d. DHS officers then interview the eligible individuals to determine whether applicants meet the United States definition of a refugee.
  - e. The highest level of security check is conducted on each applicant, including biometric and biographical checks.
  - f. All DHS-approved refugees then undergo a health screening and receive information on American culture and the importance of self-sufficiency before being flown to the United States for resettlement.

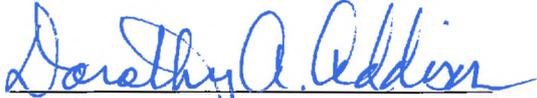
**Participation of South Carolina and other states in the federal Refugee Resettlement Program.**

9. At present, 32 of the 50 states participate directly in the Office of Refugee Resettlement Program by executing agreements with the federal government such as the South Carolina State Plan.
10. South Carolina has participated in the Refugee Resettlement Program since 1975.
11. No state funds or resources are utilized to administer the RRP. The administration of this program is 100% federally funded.
12. The following federally-funded services are provided through the RRP:
  - a. Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), which provides cash payment to eligible refugees up to 8 months after arrival in the U. S.
  - b. The RCA program is modeled after South Carolina's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance program called Family Independence.
  - c. Refugee Medical Assistance, which provides medical assistance to eligible refugees up to 8 months after arrival in the U. S.
  - d. Refugee Social Services, which provides employment assistance, case management, and other services.
13. In states such as South Carolina which have a State Administered Refugee Resettlement Program, the federal government provides notifications to the states through their respective State Refugee Coordinators of the proposed number of refugees, with/without US ties that will be resettled through the federally authorized resettlement agencies.
14. In states which do not have a State Administered Refugee Resettlement Program, the federal government can and does relocate refugees in those states without notifying state governing officials.
15. If the court in the present case were to enjoin the operation of the State Plan, such an injunction would have no effect on the ability of the federal government to resettle refugees in South Carolina. The only result would be that South Carolina would be in the same position as the 17 states which do not have a Refugee Resettlement Program administered by a state governmental agency. This would mean that South Carolina would no longer be notified when refugees are resettled in South Carolina. In addition, without a State Plan in this state, South Carolina would lose oversight of the administration and scope of the program, and would no longer disburse federally-funded benefits. Also, the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement is permitted to make grants to, and contracts with, voluntary resettlement organizations to establish or maintain a refugee program regardless of whether a state is participating in, or withdraws from, the program (8 U.S.C. §1522 (e), 45 C.F.R. §400.301).

16. There have been nearly 800 refugees resettled in South Carolina in the past 5 years. These include the following nationalities: Afghani, Berundi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Congolese, Eritrean, Iraqi, Kenya, Somali, Nepali, Rwandan, Ukrainian, Syrian, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Honduran.
17. As of the date of this affidavit, only two Syrian refugees have resettled in South Carolina. These were resettled in the Midlands though Lutheran Services Carolinas. The vetting of these individuals began in 2010, and was only recently completed. Another Syrian family has been approved for resettlement in the state. Their vetting process began in 2011. The family has been approved by the US Citizen and Immigration Services and Department of Homeland Security, but DSS does not have an estimated date of arrival or planned location of placement.
18. The United States Department of State administers the selection process for voluntary resettlement organizations. That Department has authorized nine domestic voluntary resettlement organizations, which total more than 350 affiliated offices across the United States, for placement of refugees in the United States. The following organizations are the only entities authorized to allow refugee resettlement services in the United States:
  - a. Church World Service (CWS)
  - b. Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)
  - c. Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM)
  - d. Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
  - e. International Rescue Committee (IRC)
  - f. US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
  - g. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)
  - h. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
  - i. World Relief Corporation (WR)
19. Of these organizations, two participate in the Refugee Resettlement Program in South Carolina:
  - a. Lutheran Services in Columbia, since 1992.
  - b. World Relief in Spartanburg, since 2015.
20. Programs administered by the Administration for Children and Family Services, which include the Office of Refugee Resettlement, are subject to the provisions of 45 C.F.R. §87.1(c). That regulation prohibits religious activities by certain organizations, as follows: "Organizations that receive direct financial assistance from the Health and Human Services

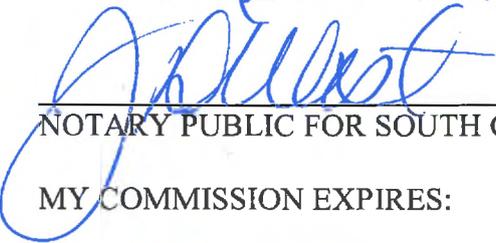
Department under any Department program may not engage in inherently religious activities such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, as part of the programs or services funded with direct financial assistance from the Department."

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

  
Dorothy A. Addison

SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 23rd

DAY OF March, 20 16.

  
(SEAL)  
NOTARY PUBLIC FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:

6/12/2022