



"Friend or Foe" Christmas Campaign

Liberty Counsel and NAME OF CHURCH have launched a campaign to prevent blatant religious discrimination during the holidays.

Liberty Counsel, a nationwide litigation, education, and policy organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom, will **bring a lawsuit against any government entity discriminating** against religion during this holiday season and **will defend any government entity which abides by the Constitution** and allows the equal expression of religious views. Liberty Counsel will also defend those who are persecuted for celebrating the religious aspects of Christmas. NAME OF CHURCH is providing local support for these efforts.

In essence, we will be a **"Friend"** to those entities which allow for the constitutionally protected right of expression but will be a **"Foe"** of those which attempt to suppress religious liberty.

THIS CAMPAIGN IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

In 2003, a Wisconsin public school told students to change "religious" words in the Christmas carols they were going to sing during a Christmas concert. They were prohibited from using words that refer to "Jesus" or "God"; they had to substitute the "religious" words with "secular" ones. A public school in Georgia instructed its employees that they were not allowed to conduct any Christmas related activities. The employees were not to read Christmas books, make Christmas decorations, or use red and white candy canes because of the religious story behind the origin of the candy cane. Some were even told they may not wear Christmas related attire. Public employers may not discriminate against staff by prohibiting Christmas celebrations.

THIS DISCRIMINATION IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

... AND LIBERTY COUNSEL WILL PROVIDE FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE FACING PERSECUTION FOR CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS.

Students in public schools may sing Christian Christmas carols, such as "Silent Night," so long as they also sing secular songs, like "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." Schools may not prohibit access to books about Christmas, because doing so discriminates against a religious viewpoint.

A publicly-sponsored nativity scene on public Property is constitutional as long as the display also contains a secular symbol of the holiday.

In other words, the government may publicly display Mary, Joseph, and Jesus so long as part of the display includes a secular symbol such as Santa Claus.

Privately sponsored nativity scenes erected by private citizens or groups in a public area are constitutional without secular symbols.

Regarding the "Friend or Foe" campaign, Mathew Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel, says, "We are resolved to stop 'grinches' from stealing Christmas. This nation was founded by people who sought to freely exercise their religious liberty. We have no intention of letting these liberties be chilled every Christmas season by uninformed or hostile government officials."

If you are facing persecution for celebrating Christmas, contact LIBERTY COUNSEL for FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

Contact LIBERTY COUNSEL
1-800-671-1776 • liberty@LC.org • www.LC.org

or Contact NAME OF CHURCH
Pastor _____
telephone number • www._____