

**Kevin Riford**  
**3038 Michael Drive**  
**North Tonawanda, NY 14120**  
**kevinriford@outlook.com**  
**716-951-2020**

**6/25/2024**

**SENT VIA EMAIL TO:**

**Hon. Amy C. Martoche - amartoch@nycourts.gov**  
**Secretary: Mary Kohlbacher - mkohlbac@nycourts.gov**  
**Law clerk: Michael Pastrick, Esq. - mpastric@nycourts.gov**  
**Court clerk: Colleen Freiheit - cfreihei@nycourts.gov**

**HON. PAULA L. FEROLETO**

**E-Mail: pferolet@nycourts.gov**

**LAW CLERK: DAVID C. CAYWOOD, ESQ. E-Mail: dcaywood@nycourts.gov**

**SECRETARY: SIOBHAN McMAHON E-Mail: shmcmaho@nycourts.gov**

**Erie County Supreme Court**

**Chief Clerk**  
**Billie Jo Zakia**  
**bzakia@nycourts.gov**

**Deputy Chief Clerk**  
**Amanda Andersen**  
**aanderse@nycourts.gov**

**Associate Court Clerk**  
**Jeffrey M. Page**  
**jmpage@nycourts.gov**

**Senior Court Analyst**  
**Robert Pazik**  
**rpazik@nycourts.gov**

**NYS 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Admin. Office**

**District Executive**  
**Tasha Moore, Esq.**  
**[temoore@nycourts.gov](mailto:temoore@nycourts.gov)**

**Deputy District Executive**  
**Ana Brignoni-Waliczek, MPA**  
[abrignon@nycourts.gov](mailto:abrignon@nycourts.gov)

**808915/2024**

**ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER CORPORATION v. CHRISTINA LITTLE**

**Emergency Motion for Stay and Adjournment of Medication Order Hearing**

Dear Judges,

I, Kevin Riford, am filing this emergency motion on behalf of my sister, Christina Little, who is currently a patient at Erie County Medical Center. I have standing as a family member with a direct interest in her health and well-being, particularly regarding the upcoming medication order hearing scheduled for 6/26/2024. Please note, I am writing to both Hon. Feroleto and Hon. Martoche, as Erie County Supreme Court Deputy Chief Clerk Ms. Anderson stated it would be one of the two judges who preside over tomorrow's hearing for Christina Little.

**Statement of Facts:**

1. **Urgency and Need for Stay:** Christina Little has been denied adequate legal representation and her due process rights have been compromised. Her ex-appointed attorney from the NYS mental hygiene legal services, Kate Hartman, did not meet with Christina Little as promised before her last court hearing on 6/20/2024, and she was not informed of her right to have witnesses present at her discharge hearing. Nor was she allowed to have access to certain evidence which may have helped her case.
2. **Violation of Rights:** These actions violate Christina Little's rights under New York State law, including her right to due process and access to effective legal counsel in matters concerning involuntary medication.
3. **Risk of Irreparable Harm:** Proceeding with the medication order hearing without proper legal representation and procedural safeguards poses a significant risk of irreparable harm to Christina Little's health and well-being.
4. **ADA Accommodation Request:** Additionally, Christina Little requires accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure effective communication and participation in these proceedings. This includes

accessible formats for communication and reasonable adjustments to the hearing process, access to an ADA advocate of Christina Little's choosing, and all other accommodations deemed just and proper.

**Legal Grounds:**

Under New York law, individuals facing involuntary treatment have the right to due process, including the right to legal representation and the right to challenge decisions affecting their treatment. *Addington v. Texas* (1979) underscores the importance of these protections to ensure fair and just proceedings in matters of involuntary medication.

**Emergency Relief Requested:**

1. **Stay of Medication Order Hearing:** I respectfully request an immediate stay of the medication order hearing scheduled for 6/26/2024, pending a review of Christina Little's right to adequate legal representation and due process, for the court to provide necessary ADA accommodations.
2. **Adjournment:** In the alternative, should the stay not be granted, I request an adjournment of the medication order hearing to allow sufficient time for Christina Little to consult with and obtain effective legal representation, and for the court to provide necessary ADA accommodations. As you may know, there is zero internet access in the unit she is in. This makes the process to find and discuss with a private attorney her situation more time intensive.

**Conclusion:**

In light of the urgent circumstances and the potential irreparable harm to Christina Little's rights and well-being, I urge the court to grant this emergency motion for a stay and adjournment of the medication order hearing on 6/26/2024.

I am available for any further information or clarification that the court may require. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Riford