



**FILED:**  
January 25,  
2024

**STATE OF INDIANA  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW PROCEEDINGS**

<b>Scott Blevins,</b> Complainant, V. <b>Mineral Springs, LLC,</b> Respondent.	Administrative Cause No.: ICRC-2308-002110 Underlying Agency Action No.: HOha23040347 05-23-8411-81
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**FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**

*Pursuant to IC 4-21.5 and the Commission's June 19, 2020 Order: Automatic Adoption and Approval of Certain Non-Final Decisions, this Order is final, having been automatically approved by the Indiana Civil Rights Commission.*

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY & JURISDICTION**

The Commission of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission ("ICRC") has subject matter jurisdiction over housing discrimination complaints based on disability that are filed under the Indiana Fair Housing Act ("IFHA") and the Indiana Civil Rights Law ("ICRL"). IND. CODE § 22-9-1-2; IND. CODE § 22-9-1-6; IND. CODE § 22-9.5-4-1; IND. CODE § 22-9.5-5. On August 8, 2023, the ICRC, after conducting a neutral investigation, made a reasonable cause and probable cause finding on Scott Blevins's April 11, 2023, complaint that alleged Respondent violated the Indiana Fair Housing Act ("IFHA") and the Indiana Civil Rights Law ("ICRL") by discriminating against Scott Blevins's in the protected area of housing on the basis of disability. When a finding of cause is made under the IFHA and ICRL, pursuant to the Commission's June 19, 2020, Finding of Necessity, the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings ("OALP") shall appoint an Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") to preside over the matter and to conduct a hearing. IND. CODE § 22-9-1-6; IND. CODE § 22-9.5-6-14; IND. CODE § 4-15-10.5-12; IND. CODE § 4-15-10.5-13.

**ISSUE**

Is Complainant's request for withdrawal of his complaint ("Motion") effective in dismissing this matter?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On January 11, 2024, the undersigned ALJ issued an Order on Notice of Withdrawal of Counsel for Gregory L. Wilson, Sr. acting solely in his capacity as Executive Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission ("Order") which effectively withdrew the appearance of ICRC Staff Attorney Yvette Kirchoff in this matter. The undersigned ALJ noted that the

Order did not effectively dismiss this matter. In the Order , the undersigned ALJ scheduled a telephonic prehearing conference for both Complainant and Respondent to appear for January 25, 2024, at 11:00am.

2. Complainant’s Motion was filed on or about January 22, 2024.
3. Specifically, Complainant stated in his Motion: “Please, note to Judge Triggs. Thank you of her services, I will take over now. Northern District Court of Southbend.” The undersigned ALJ will construe this filing as Complainant no longer wishing to pursue this matter. In addition, Complainant has filed a complaint in federal court. (See Notice of Federal Filing). As a result, Complainant requests that this matter be dismissed.<sup>1</sup>
4. The Motion was served on all Parties before a Notice of Hearing was issued.
5. On January 25, 2024, the undersigned ALJ convened the telephonic prehearing conference. After allowing fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time to join the call, neither party appeared.
6. There is no evidence of fraud, coercion, duress, or any other reason not to grant the requested dismissal.
7. Any Conclusion of Law that should have been deemed a Finding of Fact is hereby adopted as such, and this Order’s statement of Procedural History is incorporated into these Findings of Fact.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the Parties. IND. CODE § 22-9-1-2; IND. CODE § 22-9-1-3; IND. CODE § 22-9.5-5-5.
2. The Parties did not file a “consent agreement” or “conciliation agreement” that requires the approval and signature of a majority of the Commissioners. IND. CODE § 22-9-1-6(o); 910 IAC 1-3-4; IND. CODE § 22-9.5-6-5; 910 IAC 2-6-5.
3. A Complainant can withdraw an ICRC complaint by filing a Notice of Withdrawal with the Commission. 910 IAC 1-2-6.
4. A Notice of Withdrawal is a written statement made by the Complainant in which the Complainant requests that the matter be closed. *Id.* The Notice of Withdrawal must be served on all Parties. *Id.*
5. If a hearing has been set, then the majority of the Commission must agree to the withdrawal before the withdrawal is effective in closing the matter. *Id.*

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<sup>1</sup> On January 22, 2024, Respondent filed a Motion to Dismiss contending that Complainant has not responded to discovery requests. The undersigned ALJ issues this final order which will deem the issues in Respondent’s Motion to Dismiss as moot.

6. However, if a hearing has not been set, then the Notice of Withdrawal filed by a Complainant is immediately effective in closing the matter as of the date of filing. *Id.*
7. Furthermore, on June 19, 2020, the ICRC Commission issued its Order: Automatic Adoption and Approval of Certain Non-Final Decisions (“Commission’s Order”). As detailed in the Commission’s Order (attached as Exhibit A), the Commission, by majority vote, agreed to automatically approve any non-final decision issued by an ALJ in which an ALJ accepts a “Notice of Withdrawal filed by Complainant before a date for a hearing has been set,” provided the Notice of Withdrawal complies with 910 IAC 1-2-6 or in which an ALJ accepts a joint motion to dismiss, provided the Parties waive their right to object to the ALJ’s decision under IAOPA.
8. Complainant filed Complainant’s Motion prior to the setting of a hearing in this matter, and Complainant’s Motion complies with 910 IAC 1-2-6.
9. Accordingly, this matter is dismissed, and pursuant to IC 4-21.5-3-29 and the Commission’s Order, this Order is an automatically affirmed as a Final Order disposing of the proceedings. IND. CODE § 4-21.5-3-27(a).
10. Any Finding of Fact that should have been deemed a Conclusion of Law is hereby adopted as such, and this Order’s Statement of Jurisdiction is incorporated into these Conclusions of Law.

### **DECISION**

Having duly considered the above, the undersigned Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) for the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings (“OALP”) hereby orders as follows:

1. Complainant’s Motion is GRANTED.
2. Scott Blevin’s April 11, 2023, Complaint is DISMISSED, with prejudice.
3. Either Party to a dispute filed under IC 22-9.5 or IC 22-9 may, not more than thirty (30) days after the date of receipt of the Commission’s final appealable order, appeal to the court of appeals under the same terms, conditions, and standards that govern appeals in ordinary civil actions. IND. CODE § 22-9-8-1; IND. CODE § 22-9.5-11-1.

SO ORDERED: January 25, 2024



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Hon. LaKeshia Triggs, Administrative Law Judge  
Indiana Office of Administrative Law Proceedings  
100 North Senate Ave., Room N802  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 234-6689

**Distribution List:**

*The following distribution list includes the names and mailing addresses of all known Parties and other persons to whom notice is being given. IND. CODE § 4-21.5-3-18.*

Scott Blevins served at [Scottblevins474@gmail.com](mailto:Scottblevins474@gmail.com)

Yvette Kirchoff\*: 100 N. Senate, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Jack Volkers served at [jack@volkers.org](mailto:jack@volkers.org)

Chair Slash of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission – ultimate authority and served at [docketclerk@icrc.in.gov](mailto:docketclerk@icrc.in.gov)

*\*served in care of appearing attorney through ALP system at the email address on file with the Indiana Roll of Attorneys – all other service by mail.*

**INDIANA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**ORDER: AUTOMATIC ADOPTION AND APPROVAL OF CERTAIN NON-FINAL**  
**DECISIONS**

On June 19, 2020, the Majority of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission voted, under Indiana Code 4-21.5-3-29, to automatically adopt and approve as a final order any decision issued by an Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") assigned to a matter under the June 19, 2020 Order: Finding of Necessity in which the assigned ALJ accepts the following:

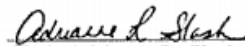
1. A Joint Motion to Dismiss or similar motion in which all parties move for the matter's dismissal and waive their right to file objections to a decision issued by the ALJ under Indiana Code 4-21.5-3-29; and
2. A Notice of Withdrawal filed by Complainant before a date for a hearing has been set, provided the Notice of Withdrawal complies with 910 IAC 1-2-6(A)(i) and 910 IAC 1-2-6(B).

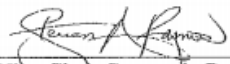
This Order does not apply to any Consent or Conciliation Agreements which require the signature of all approving Commission Members to be effective.

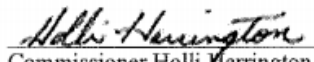
This Order applies with equal force to decisions issued under Indiana Code 22-9, *et. seq.* and Indiana Code 22-9.5, *et. seq.*

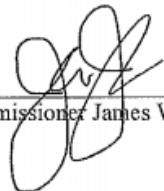
This Order is effective immediately.

SO ORDERED on June 19, 2020 by the majority vote of 4 Commissioners:

  
Chair Adrienne L. Slash

  
Vice-Chair Steven A. Ramos

  
Commissioner Holli Harrington

  
Commissioner James W. Jackson