

**U.S. District Court
Northern District of Florida (Tallahassee)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 4:23-cv-00145-RH-MAF**

STATE OF FLORIDA v. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE et al

Assigned to: JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE
Referred to: MAGISTRATE JUDGE MARTIN A
FITZPATRICK

Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 04/12/2023

Jury Demand: None

Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of
Information Act

Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

Plaintiff

STATE OF FLORIDA

represented by **NATALIE CHRISTMAS**
FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
OFFICE
PL-01 THE CAPITOL
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850-414-3300
Email: natalie.christmas@myfloridalegal.com
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

Defendant

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE**

represented by **MARY ANN LANE COUCH**
DOJ-USAO
21 E GARDEN STREET
SUITE 400
PENSACOLA, FL 32502
850-444-4037
Email: mary.ann.couch@usdoj.gov
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

WILLIAM GLENN PAFFORD
FLORIDA BOARD OF BAR
EXAMINERS
CIVIL DIVISION
1891 EIDER COURT
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308
850-487-1292
Email: paffordw@flcourts.org
TERMINATED: 01/18/2024

Defendant

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES**

represented by **MARY ANN LANE COUCH**
(See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

WILLIAM GLENN PAFFORD
(See above for address)
TERMINATED: 01/18/2024

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
04/12/2023	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT for Injunctive Relief and to Compel Production of Documents against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number BFLNDC-7815503.), filed by STATE OF FLORIDA. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit FOIA Request, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 2/9/22 Email, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 2/10/22 HHS Acknowledgment, # <u>4</u> Summonses) (CHRISTMAS, NATALIE) (Entered: 04/12/2023)

04/12/2023	<u>2</u>	CIVIL COVER SHEET. (CHRISTMAS, NATALIE) (Entered: 04/12/2023)
04/13/2023	<u>3</u>	Summons Issued as to UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (rcb) (Entered: 04/13/2023)
04/17/2023	<u>4</u>	Summons Issued as to UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. (rcb) (Entered: 04/17/2023)
05/01/2023	<u>5</u>	NOTICE of Service by STATE OF FLORIDA (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Certified Mail Receipts, # <u>2</u> Exhibit USPS Tracking) (CHRISTMAS, NATALIE) (Entered: 05/01/2023)
05/11/2023		Set Deadlines– Answer due by US DEPT OF JUSTICE JUSTICE MGT DIVISION 5/16/2023 . U.S. DEPT OF HHS 5/15/2023 (rcb) **SUMMONSES WERE NOT RECEIVED NOR ISSUED ON 4/13/2023 & 4/17/2023 FOR THE US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND US DEPT. OF HHS–ANSWER DEADLINES WERE NOT SET** (Entered: 05/11/2023)
05/11/2023	<u>6</u>	NOTICE of Filing Supplemental Proof of Service by STATE OF FLORIDA (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Copies of Returned Receipts) (CHRISTMAS, NATALIE) (Entered: 05/11/2023)
05/16/2023		ACTION REQUIRED BY DISTRICT JUDGE: Chambers of JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE notified that action is needed Re: <u>5</u> & <u>6</u> (rcb) ***ANSWER NOT FILED BY U.S. DEPT OF HHS DUE BY 5/15/2023*** (Entered: 05/16/2023)
05/18/2023		ACTION REQUIRED BY DISTRICT JUDGE: Chambers of JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE notified that action is needed Re: Set Deadlines–5/16/2023 Answer Deadline–US DEPT OF JUSTICE JUSTICE MGT DIVISION (rcb) **US DEPT OF JUSTICE JUSTICE MGT DIVISION NOT FILED BY 5/16/2023 RE: <u>5</u> & <u>6</u> ** (Entered: 05/18/2023)
05/19/2023	<u>7</u>	ANSWER to <u>1</u> Complaint, by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (PAFFORD, WILLIAM) (Entered: 05/19/2023)
05/19/2023	<u>8</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by MARY ANN LANE COUCH on behalf of UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (COUCH, MARY ANN) (Entered: 05/19/2023)
05/19/2023	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by WILLIAM GLENN PAFFORD on behalf of UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (PAFFORD, WILLIAM) (Entered: 05/19/2023)
05/22/2023		ACTION REQUIRED BY DISTRICT JUDGE: Chambers of JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE notified that action is needed Re: <u>7</u> Answer to Complaint (rcb) **AN ISO IS NEEDED** (Entered: 05/22/2023)
05/23/2023	<u>10</u>	INITIAL SCHEDULING ORDER. Rule 26 Meeting Report due by 7/7/2023. Discovery due by 12/22/2023. Attorney Conference due by 6/23/2023. Jury Trial set for 4/1/2024 08:15 AM in U.S. Courthouse Tallahassee before JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE. Signed by JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE on 05/23/2023. (rcb) Modified to edit trial date on 5/25/2023 (rcb). (Entered: 05/24/2023)
07/07/2023	<u>11</u>	REPORT of Rule 26(f) Planning Meeting. (PAFFORD, WILLIAM) (Entered: 07/07/2023)
07/16/2023	<u>12</u>	SCHEDULING ORDER. The parties must file a status report by 10/16/2023 and by the last day of each February (2/29/2024), May (5/31/2024), August (8/31/2024), and November (11/30/2024) when a summary–judgment motion is not pending, starting with 2/29/2024. The deadline for summary–judgment motions is November 13, 2023, but the deadline may be extended on a consented motion or a motion showing good cause. Signed by JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE on 7/16/2023. (rcb) Modified to add summary judgment language on 7/20/2023 (rcb). (Entered: 07/17/2023)
07/16/2023		Set Deadline– **PLEASE DISREGARD THIS ENTRY** . (rcb) (Entered: 07/20/2023)

07/16/2023		Set Deadline–Re: <u>12</u> Summary Judgment Motions to be filed by 11/13/2023 . (rcb) (Entered: 07/20/2023)
10/13/2023	<u>13</u>	STATUS REPORT (<i>JOINT</i>) by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (PAFFORD, WILLIAM) (Entered: 10/13/2023)
11/08/2023	<u>14</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to File Dispositive Motions by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A – PARTIES STATUS REPORT AND PROPOSED BRIEFING SCHEDULE, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B – REFERRAL AND ORDER) (PAFFORD, WILLIAM) (Entered: 11/08/2023)
11/26/2023	<u>15</u>	ORDER EXTENDING THE SUMMARY–JUDGMENT DEADLINE. The defendants' unopposed motion, ECF No. <u>14</u> , to extend the deadline to move for summary judgment is granted. Signed by JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE on 11/26/2023. (rcb) (Entered: 11/27/2023)
01/12/2024	<u>16</u>	MOTION to Withdraw as Attorney by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (PAFFORD, WILLIAM) (Entered: 01/12/2024)
01/18/2024	<u>17</u>	ORDER GRANTING LEAVE TO WITHDRAW–PAFFORD – Attorney William Glenn Pafford's motion for leave to withdraw, ECF No. <u>16</u> , is granted, effective immediately. Signed by JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE on 1/18/2024. (baf) (Entered: 01/18/2024)
02/28/2024	<u>18</u>	JOINT STATUS REPORT by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (COUCH, MARY ANN) Modified title on 2/28/2024 (baf). (Entered: 02/28/2024)
02/28/2024	<u>19</u>	Joint MOTION TO SUSPEND TRIAL DATE by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (COUCH, MARY ANN) (Entered: 02/28/2024)
02/29/2024	<u>20</u>	ORDER ON THE TRIAL DATE – The initial scheduling order said that absent good cause set out in the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) report, the trial would occur during the two–week period that begins on April 1, 2024. The 26(f) report said the case would be appropriate for resolution by summary judgment, so no trial date was set. The July 16, 2023 scheduling order did make that as clear as it could have, and the parties have moved to suspend the trial date. This order confirms that no trial date has been set. Signed by JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE on 2/29/2024. (baf) (Entered: 02/29/2024)
05/31/2024	<u>21</u>	STATUS REPORT (<i>JOINT</i>) by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (COUCH, MARY ANN) (Entered: 05/31/2024)
09/03/2024		ACTION REQUIRED BY DISTRICT JUDGE: Chambers of JUDGE ROBERT L HINKLE notified that action is needed Re: <u>12</u> SCHEDULING ORDER. ***Status Report was not filed by the deadline date of 8/31/2024.*** (baf) (Entered: 09/03/2024)
09/03/2024	<u>22</u>	STATUS REPORT (<i>Joint</i>) by UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. (COUCH, MARY ANN) (Entered: 09/03/2024)