

THE HONORABLE DAVID G. ESTUDILLO

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

PAUL D. ETIENNE, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBERT W. FERGUSON, in his official  
capacity as Governor of Washington, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 3:25-cv-05461-DGE

**STIPULATED MOTION TO STAY  
PROCEEDINGS AND ENTER  
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AS TO  
COUNTY PROSECUTOR  
DEFENDANTS**

**AND**

**ORDER**

**NOTING DATE: July 11, 2025**

Plaintiffs Paul D. Etienne, Joseph J. Tyson, Thomas A. Daly, Frank R. Schuster, Eusebio L. Elizondo, Gary F. Lazzeroni, Gary M. Zender, Robert Pearson, Lutakome Nsubuga, Jesús Mariscal, and Michael Kelly (“Plaintiffs”) and Defendants Leesa Manion, Larry Haskell, Joseph Brusic, Randy Flyckt, Curt Liedkie, Eric Eisinger, Robert Sealby, Mark Nichols, Tony Golik, Dale Slack, Ryan Jurvakainen, James Mitchell,<sup>1</sup> Michael Golden, Shawn Sant, Mathew

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(d), James Mitchell, the acting Douglas County Prosecuting Attorney under RCW 36.16.115, is substituted in place of the Honorable Gordon Edgar, who retired as Douglas County Prosecuting Attorney effective June 30, 2025.

STIPULATED MOTION  
(No. 3:25-cv-05461-DGE)

**WILMER CUTLER PICKERING  
HALE AND DORR LLP**  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 663-6000 (t)  
(202) 663-6363 (f)

1 Newberg, Kevin McRae, Norma Tillotson, Gregory Banks, James Kennedy, Chad Enright,  
2 Gregory Zempel, David Quesnel, Jonathan Meyer, Ty Albertson, Michael Dorcy, Albert Lin,  
3 Michael Rothman, Dolly Hunt, Mary Robnett, Amy Vira, Rich Weyrich, Adam Kick, Jason  
4 Cummings, Erika George, Jon Tunheim, Dan Bigelow, Gabe Acosta, Eric Richey, and Denis  
5 Tracy (the “Stipulating Defendants”) jointly move the Court, pursuant to Local Rule 7(d)(1), to  
6 stay all proceedings in this case with respect to the Stipulating Defendants pending a final  
7 judgment in this case, subject to the Stipulating Defendants’ agreement to be bound by the terms  
8 of this Stipulation and Proposed Order, including Exhibit A attached thereto.

9 On May 29, 2025, Plaintiffs filed a Complaint (Dkt. 1) against the Stipulating Defendants  
10 and others, including Robert W. Ferguson, in his official capacity as Governor of Washington  
11 and Nicholas W. Brown, in his official capacity as Attorney General of Washington. The  
12 Complaint alleges that Section 26.44.030(1)(a) of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), as  
13 amended by Senate Bill 5375, violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S.  
14 Constitution, as well as Article I, Section 11 of the Washington Constitution. None of the  
15 defendants named in the lawsuit have yet answered or otherwise responded to the Complaint.

16 On June 5, 2025, Plaintiffs filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction (“Motion”) against  
17 all defendants (Dkt. 65) seeking to preliminarily enjoin them from enforcing or attempting to  
18 enforce RCW § 26.44.030, as amended by Senate Bill 5375, as applied to information learned by  
19 Roman Catholic priests solely through the Sacrament of Confession. Four defendants have filed  
20 responses to the Motion. *See* Dkt. 131; Dkt. 172; Dkt. 175.

21 The Stipulating Defendants seek to avoid the cost and burdens of this litigation and have  
22 agreed not to oppose, either during this litigation or on appeal, Plaintiffs’ requests for injunctive  
23 relief against them. The Stipulating Defendants and Plaintiffs have further agreed that, to allow  
24 for the Plaintiffs to pursue their claims against the remaining defendants, the Plaintiffs’ claims  
25 against the Stipulating Defendants will be stayed in their entirety until the Court’s entry of a final  
26 judgment in this lawsuit, thus precluding the Stipulating Defendants from (i) responding to the

27 STIPULATED MOTION  
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(202) 663-6363 (f)

1 Complaint, (ii) participating in motions practice, and (iii) propounding (or being subject to)  
2 discovery. In exchange for Plaintiffs' agreement to stay the lawsuit against them, the Stipulating  
3 Defendants stipulate to the Court's entry of the Plaintiffs' proposed preliminary injunction  
4 against them (Dkt. 65-1), pending the Court's final judgment, including during the pendency of  
5 any potential interlocutory appeal. The Stipulating Defendants have further agreed to consent to  
6 the Court's final judgment as to the remaining defendants and not to appeal any such judgment.

7 In consideration of these mutual agreements, Plaintiffs have agreed not to seek attorneys'  
8 fees and/or costs from the Stipulating Defendants at the conclusion of this matter and regardless  
9 of the Court's final judgment. The Stipulating Defendants have likewise agreed to waive any  
10 claim for attorneys' fees and/or costs from the Plaintiffs, regardless of the Court's final  
11 judgment.

12 IT IS SO STIPULATED by and between the Parties.

13 \* \* \*

14 //  
15 //

16 I certify that this memorandum contains 611 words, in compliance with the Local Civil  
17 Rules.

18 DATED: July 11, 2025  
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**WILMER CUTLER PICKERING  
HALE AND DORR LLP**  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 663-6000 (t)  
(202) 663-6363 (f)

1 By: /s/ Anna K. Aruiza

2 Anna K. Aruiza, WSBA #39663  
3 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
4 CHAD M. ENRIGHT  
5 Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney  
6 614 Division St. MS-35A  
7 Port Orchard, WA 98366-4676  
8 Tel: (360) 337-4992  
9 Fax: (360) 337-7083  
10 aaruiza@kitsap.gov  
11 Attorney for Defendant Chad Enright

12 By: /s/ Heidi Jacobsen-Watts

13 Heidi Jacobsen-Watts, WSBA #35549  
14 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
15 LEESA MANION  
16 King County Prosecuting Attorney  
17 701 Fifth Ave., Suite 600  
18 Seattle, WA 98104  
19 Tel: (206) 477-1120  
20 Fax: (206) 296-0191  
21 heidi.jacobsen-watts@kingcounty.gov  
22 Attorney for Defendant Leesa Manion

23 By: /s/ Philip C. Hunsucker

24 Philip C. Hunsucker, WSBA #48692  
25 Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
26 JAMES KENNEDY  
27 Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney  
28 1820 Jefferson Street/P.O. Box 1220  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
Tel: (360) 385-9180  
PHunsucker@co.jefferson.wa.us  
Attorney for Defendant James Kennedy

29 By: /s/ Amanda Migchelbrink

30 Amanda Migchelbrink, WSBA #34223  
31 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
32 TONY GOLIK  
33 Clark County Prosecuting Attorney  
34 1300 Franklin St., Suite 380  
35 Vancouver, WA 98666-5000  
36 Tel: (564) 397-2478  
37 Fax: (564) 397-2184  
38 Amanda.Migchelbrink@clark.wa.gov  
39 Attorney for Defendant Tony Golik  
40 STIPULATED MOTION  
41 (No. 3:25-cv-05461-DGE)

By: /s/ Siddharth Velamoor

William J. Crowley  
CROWLEY LAW OFFICES, P.S.  
600 University Street  
Suite 1708  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Tel: (206) 224-7069  
will@crowleylawoffices.com

Matthew T. Martens (*pro hac vice*)  
Siddharth Velamoor, WSBA #40965  
Donna Farag (*pro hac vice*)  
Zachary Halpern (*pro hac vice*)  
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE  
AND DORR LLP  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
Tel: (202) 663-6000  
Fax: (202) 663-6363  
matthew.martens@wilmerhale.com  
siddharth.velamoor@wilmerhale.com  
donna.farag@wilmerhale.com  
zac.halpern@wilmerhale.com

Leah M. Fugere (*pro hac vice*)  
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE  
AND DORR LLP  
350 South Grand Avenue  
Suite 2400  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
Tel: (213) 443-5300  
Fax: (213) 443-5400  
leah.fugere@wilmerhale.com

Robert Kingsley Smith (*pro hac vice*)  
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE  
AND DORR LLP  
60 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
Tel: (617) 526-6000  
Fax: (617) 526-5000  
robert.smith@wilmerhale.com

**WILMER CUTLER PICKERING  
HALE AND DORR LLP**  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 663-6000 (t)  
(202) 663-6363 (f)

1 By: /s/ Frederick A. Haist  
2 Frederick A. Haist, WSBA #48937  
3 Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
4 RICHARD E. WEYRICH  
5 Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney  
6 605 Third St.  
7 Mount Vernon, WA 98273-3867  
8 Tel: (360) 416-1600  
9 Fax: (360) 416-1649  
10 fhaist@co.skagit.wa.us  
11 Attorney for Defendant Richard Weyrich

12 By: /s/ Rachel K. Stanley  
13 Rachel K. Stanley, WSBA #58280  
14 EVANS, CRAVEN & LACKIE, P.S.  
15 818 Riverside, Suite 250  
16 Spokane, WA 99201-0910  
17 Tel: (509) 455-5200  
18 Fax: (509) 455-3632  
19 rstanley@ecl-law.com  
20 Attorney for Defendants Curt Liedike, Dale  
21 Slack, Mathew Newburg, Kevin McCrae, Ty  
22 Albertson, Adam Kick, Erika George, and  
23 Denis Tracy

24 By: /s/ Geoffrey A. Enns  
25 Geoffrey A. Enns, WSBA #40682  
26 Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
27 JASON CUMMINGS  
28 Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney  
3000 Rockefeller Ave. M/S 504  
Everett, WA 98201  
Tel: (425) 388-6330  
Fax: (425) 388-6333  
Geoff.Enns@co.snohomish.wa.us  
Attorney for Defendants Larry Haskell, Joseph  
Brusic, Randy Flyckt, Eric Eisinger, Robert  
Sealby, Mark Nichols, Ryan Jurvakainen,  
James Mitchell, Michael Golden, Shawn Sant,  
Norma Tillotson, Gregory Banks, Gregory  
Zempel, David Quesnel, Jonathan Meyer,  
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Acosta, and Eric Richey  
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Mark L. Rienzi (*pro hac vice*)  
Eric C. Rassbach (*pro hac vice*)  
William J. Haun (*pro hac vice*)  
Laura Wolk Slavis (*pro hac vice*)  
BECKET FUND FOR RELIGIOUS  
LIBERTY  
1919 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Tel: (202) 955-0095  
mrienzi@becketfund.org  
erassbach@becketfund.org  
whaun@becketfund.org  
lslavis@becketfund.org

Hiram S. Sasser, III (*pro hac vice*  
forthcoming)  
Jeremy Dys (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)  
Chris Motz (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)  
FIRST LIBERTY INSTITUTE  
2001 W. Plano Pkwy., Ste. 1600  
Plano, Texas 75075  
Tel: (972) 941-4444  
Fax: (972) 941-4457  
hsasser@firstliberty.org  
jdys@firstliberty.org  
cmotz@firstliberty.org

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

**WILMER CUTLER PICKERING  
HALE AND DORR LLP**  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 663-6000 (t)  
(202) 663-6363 (f)

**ORDER****PURSUANT TO THE FOREGOING STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

This matter is before the Court on the Stipulated Motion to Stay Proceedings and Enter Preliminary Injunction as to County Prosecutor Defendants (“Motion”) (Dkt. 65). Defendants Leesa Manion, Larry Haskell, Joseph Brusic, Randy Flyckt, Curt Liedkie, Eric Eisinger, Robert Sealby, Mark Nichols, Tony Golik, Dale Slack, Ryan Jurvakainen, James Mitchell, Michael Golden, Shawn Sant, Mathew Newberg, Kevin McRae, Norma Tillotson, Gregory Banks, James Kennedy, Chad Enright, Gregory Zempel, David Quesnel, Jonathan Meyer, Ty Albertson, Michael Dorcy, Albert Lin, Michael Rothman, Dolly Hunt, Mary Robnett, Amy Vira, Rich Weyrich, Adam Kick, Jason Cummings, Erika George, Jon Tunheim, Dan Bigelow, Gabe Acosta, Eric Richey, and Denis Tracy (the “Stipulating Defendants”) have agreed, in exchange for Plaintiffs’ agreement to stay the lawsuit against them, to stipulate to the Court’s entry of the Plaintiffs’ proposed preliminary injunction (Dkt. 65-1) pending the Court’s final judgment in this case, including during the pendency of any potential interlocutory appeal. The Stipulating Defendants have further agreed to consent to the Court’s final judgment against the remaining defendants and not to appeal any such judgment. In consideration of these mutual agreements, Plaintiffs have agreed not to seek attorneys’ fees and/or costs from the Stipulating Defendants at the conclusion of this matter and regardless of the Court’s final judgment. The Stipulating Defendants have likewise agreed to waive any claim for attorneys’ fees and/or costs from the Plaintiffs, regardless of the Court’s final judgment.

Having reviewed the Motion, the docket and all related material, and good cause appearing therefrom, the Court hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. The Stipulating Defendants are hereby subject to and bound by Exhibit A to this Order.
2. Plaintiffs’ action against the Stipulating Defendants shall be STAYED until the entry of a final judgment in this matter as to all other defendants. During the pendency of the stay,

ORDER GRANTING  
STIPULATED MOTION

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the Stipulating Defendants' deadline to respond to the Complaint and all other case deadlines applicable to the Stipulating Defendants shall be STRICKEN.

3. The Stipulating Defendants will not appeal any interlocutory ruling in this matter, including but not limited to the Court's ruling on Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction (Dkt. 65).
4. The Stipulating Defendants will consent to the Court's final judgment against the remaining defendants and will not appeal any such judgment.
5. In consideration of these mutual agreements, Plaintiffs will not seek attorneys' fees and/or costs from the Stipulating Defendants at the conclusion of this matter and regardless of the Court's final judgment. The Stipulating Defendants likewise waive any claim for attorneys' fees and/or costs from the Plaintiffs, regardless of the Court's final judgment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 15th day of July, 2025



David G. Estudillo  
United States District Judge

Presented by:

/s/ Siddharth Velamoor

Siddharth Velamoor, WSBA #40965  
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND  
DORR LLP

2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
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HALE AND DORR LLP**  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 663-6000 (t)  
(202) 663-6363 (f)

1 Tel: (202) 663-6000  
2 Fax: (202) 663-6363  
3 siddharth.velamoor@wilmerhale.com  
4

/s/ Anna K. Aruiza

5 Anna K. Aruiza, WSBA #39663  
6 Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
7 CHAD M. ENRIGHT  
8 Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney  
9 614 Division St. MS-35A  
10 Port Orchard, WA 98366-4676  
11 Tel: (360) 337-4992  
12 Fax: (360) 337-7083  
13 aaruiza@kitsap.gov  
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**EXHIBIT A**

Pursuant to the Stipulated Motion of Plaintiffs Paul D. Etienne, Joseph J. Tyson, Thomas A. Daly, Frank R. Schuster, Eusebio L. Elizondo, Gary F. Lazzeroni, Gary M. Zender, Robert Pearson, Lutakome Nsubuga, Jesús Mariscal, and Michael Kelly (“Plaintiffs”) and Defendants Leesa Manion, Larry Haskell, Joseph Brusic, Randy Flyckt, Curt Liedkie, Eric Eisinger, Robert Sealby, Mark Nichols, Tony Golik, Dale Slack, Ryan Jurvakainen, James Mitchell, Michael Golden, Shawn Sant, Mathew Newberg, Kevin McRae, Norma Tillotson, Gregory Banks, James Kennedy, Chad Enright, Gregory Zempel, David Quesnel, Jonathan Meyer, Ty Albertson, Michael Dorcy, Albert Lin, Michael Rothman, Dolly Hunt, Mary Robnett, Amy Vira, Rich Weyrich, Adam Kick, Jason Cummings, Erika George, Jon Tunheim, Dan Bigelow, Gabe Acosta, Eric Richey, and Denis Tracy (the “Stipulating Defendants”), IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Stipulating Defendants and their agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and other persons who are in active concert or participation with Stipulating Defendants, their agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, are preliminarily enjoined, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65(a), from enforcing or attempting to enforce RCW § 26.44.030, as amended by Senate Bill 5375, as applied to information learned by Roman Catholic priests solely through the Sacrament of Confession.

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