

The *New Hope Family Services* Cases

Case Name: *New Hope Family Services v. Poole* and *New Hope Family Services v. James*

Case Status: ADF obtained a preliminary injunction in *Poole* and filed a motion for preliminary injunction in *James*.

Significance: Whether religious adoption providers can serve children, birth parents, and adoptive parents in a manner consistent with their faith.



Background on *New Hope v. Poole*: New Hope Family Services is a religious adoption agency and pregnancy center that has served Syracuse women, children, and families since 1965. Because of New Hope's faith-based belief that the best home for each child includes a father and mother committed to each other in marriage, New Hope devotes its privately funded resources to placing children in such homes, while referring others to nearby providers. Yet, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) sent New Hope a letter demanding that the agency either revise its policy or shut down its adoption program. New Hope filed suit against the OCFS commissioner to protect its ability to operate according to its beliefs. In October 2020, a district court ruled that New York may not shut down New Hope's adoption program while the lawsuit proceeds.

Background on *New Hope v. James*: In August 2021, an individual apparently aware of New Hope's beliefs contacted New Hope inquiring about adoption generally. New Hope's director responded by providing basic information, including an accurate description of New Hope's religious beliefs and its priority of placing children in homes with a married mother and father. The next business day, this individual filed a complaint with the New York State Division of Human Rights, and the State then promptly launched an investigation against New Hope for the same beliefs and policy which the court already held are likely protected in *New Hope I*. ADF represents New Hope to prevent the state of New York from harassing it for operating according to its religious beliefs.

Key Points

- All adoption agencies should be allowed to serve according to their beliefs about what's best for kids, including the need for both a mother and a father.
- What is happening to New Hope is part of a disturbing trend that spans from [Alaska](#) and [Washington](#) to [Colorado](#) and New York: Government officials weaponizing the legal system to ruin those who simply disagree with them—even after courts rule to protect their constitutional rights.
- Adoption providers exist to help children, not to affirm the desires of adults.

Key Facts

- New Hope has over 50 years of experience in adoption, placing over 1,000 children with loving families.
- Informed by its faith, New Hope believes the best homes for each child includes a mother and a father committed to each other in marriage. And the Constitution protects New Hope's right to live out its faith.
- The U.S. Supreme Court [recently held](#) in *Fulton* that an effort by the City of Philadelphia to force a Catholic foster-care ministry to place children with same-sex couples violated that agency's rights.

The Bottom Line: Every child deserves a home with a loving mother and father. Adoption providers who help children find a loving home should be protected, not shut down for their faith.