



## ***FACT SHEET***

### ***Telescope Media Group v. Lindsey***

#### ***ABOUT THE CASE***

Carl and Angel Larsen own [Telescope Media Group](#), a Minnesota-based video production company that exists to tell great stories that honor God. The Larsens want to use their God-given talents and the storytelling power of film to reanimate people's hearts and minds about the goodness of marriage between a man and a woman through wedding cinematography. But according to Minnesota officials, the state's Human Rights Act mandates that, if the Larsens make films celebrating marriage between one man and one woman, they must make films celebrating same-sex marriages as well. State officials have categorically, publicly, and repeatedly threatened to prosecute expressive business owners who decline to create speech promoting same-sex marriages. Steep penalties exist for violating the law, including payment of a civil penalty to the state; triple compensatory damages; punitive damages of up to \$25,000; a criminal penalty of up to \$1,000; and even up to 90 days in jail. The Larsens have filed suit in federal court to challenge this unconstitutional law.



#### ***STATUS AS OF 2017-05-25***

Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys representing the Larsens and Telescope Media Group filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota on Dec. 6, 2016, and followed up with a motion for preliminary injunction on Jan. 13, 2017. A hearing on the motion and the state's motion to dismiss will take place on May 26, 2017.

#### ***WHAT IS AT STAKE?***

- The freedom of creative professionals to control their own speech without facing unjust punishment at the hands of government.
- Whether the government can force creative professionals to promote messages that violate their core beliefs.
- The right of creative professionals to be treated equally under the law regardless of the popularity of their views.

#### ***CONTACT Alliance Defending Freedom Media Communications***

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#### ***ABOUT Alliance Defending Freedom***

Alliance Defending Freedom is an alliance-building, non-profit legal organization that advocates for the right of people to freely live out their faith.

#### ***ABOUT Jeremy Tedesco***

Jeremy Tedesco serves as senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, where he is director of the Center for Conscience Initiatives. In 2004, he earned his J.D. from the Regent University School of Law. Tedesco is admitted to the state bar of Arizona; the Supreme and District Court of Arizona; the District Court of Colorado; the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th Circuits; and the U.S. Supreme Court.