

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT

David Meehan

v.

State of New Hampshire,  
Department of Health and Human Services, et al.

Docket No.: 217-2020-CV-0026

**ORDER ON STATE DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO RECONSIDER THE ORDER OF  
THE CHIEF JUSTICE REASSIGNING CERTAIN CASES TO ADDITIONAL JUDGES**

The State defendants and the plaintiffs request that the Chief Justice reconsider the recent order reassigning the so-called “Contractor” YDC cases to additional judges for the adjudication of pending motions. They request a hearing on the issue. Because the pleadings are thorough and there is no complex question of law at issue, the Chief Justice determines that a hearing will not likely assist the court in the resolution of this question and therefore the request for a hearing is denied.

At this time, there are over 1300 YDC cases pending in Superior Court, with new cases being filed every week. The majority of the cases are State-only defendant cases. There are several hundred cases, however, that primarily involve contractor defendants. In light of the extraordinary volume, seriousness, and complexity of these cases, the Chief Justice determined that the allocation of additional judicial resources was necessary in order to attempt to fulfill the obligation of the courts to adjudicate these cases fairly and efficiently. In making his determination, the Chief Justice took into account all of the concerns raised in the motion to reconsider and balanced those concerns against the need for additional judges to be assigned to adjudicate the growing number of pending motions in the hundreds of contractor cases.

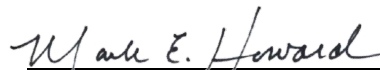
The additional judges assigned to the contractor cases have all been made aware of the procedures established in these cases. It is the intention of the courts to follow the established procedures and the parties can be assured that no material changes are anticipated unless the judge, in the exercise of judicial discretion, determines that a deviation in a particular cases is necessary in the interests of justice. In addition, the administration of these cases by the Electronic Filing Center and the clerks' offices will remain largely unchanged.

In sum, the interests of justice demanded that the Chief Justice take meaningful action to ensure that the cases are addressed in a fair and efficient manner for all parties, which includes the obligation to resolve issues in a timely fashion, and to alleviate the overwhelming burden of these cases on Judge Schulman and court administrators.

The motion to reconsider is denied.

SO ORDERED.

Date: May 9, 2024



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Mark E. Howard  
Chief Justice

Clerk's Notice of Decision  
Document Sent to Parties  
on 05/09/2024