

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT,
IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY,
FLORIDA

Case Number: 2025-CA-006966-O

JANE PA DOE, by and through her mother and
natural guardian, MOTHER PA DOE,

Plaintiff,

v.

FLORIDA MULTICULTURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD,
INC. and IGNITE LIFE CENTER,

Defendants. _____/

**DEFENDANT FLORIDA MULTICULTURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD INC'S MOTION TO DISMISS COUNT I OF
PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT**

Defendant, FLORIDA MULTICULTURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC. ("District"), by and through undersigned counsel, and
pursuant to rule 1.140, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, hereby moves this Honorable
Court for an Order dismissing Plaintiff's Complaint and staying discovery, and in support
thereof, DISTRICT states:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a negligence action brought by L.A., as legal guardian of JANE PA
DOE against Defendant Ignite and the Florida Multicultural District Counsel of the
Assemblies of God, Inc. stemming from the alleged abuse of JANE PA DOE by a fellow
camper MG, also a minor, while in the dormitories of co-defendant IGNITE LIFE
CENTER, during the Ignite Summer Internship program in July 2018. Specifically, Count I
is alleged against DISTRICT.

2. On July 23, 2025, Plaintiff filed a 2 count Complaint, which alleges 1 cause of action against Defendant DISTRICT: I) negligence for the intentional criminal actions of MG (another minor camper).

3. DISTRICT alleges all counts asserted against it, fail to state a proper cause of action, and/or are pled with insufficient facts, injuries, and damages to substantiate said counts, and accordingly must be dismissed.

4. Furthermore, DISTRICT asserts that this Court lacks Subject Matter Jurisdiction as the matters brought before this Honorable Court relate to matters of doctrine and church governance, and are therefore precluded through the ecclesiastical abstention doctrine.

5. The remaining counts were brought against Co-Defendant IGNITE LIFE CENTER, INC.

6. Accordingly, DISTRICT is seeking an order dismissing, with prejudice, the Complaint for (a) Plaintiff's failure to state a cause of action against DISTRICT; and (b) the Court's lack of subject matter jurisdiction over matters of doctrine and church governance.

MEMORANDUM OF LAW

I. PLAINTIFF HAS FAILED TO STATE A CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DISTRICT.

A. The District cannot be held liable for the unforeseeable criminal conduct of one camper that causes harm to another camper.

The Complaint alleges that the District is liable for sexual abuse of one minor child camper on another minor child camper. There is no legal basis for such liability absent

knowledge that the acts were likely to occur. The District is not the owner or operator of the camp where the events took place. This case does not involve a risk created by the District or its employee. “This requirement of reasonable, general foresight is the core of the duty element.” *McCain v. Fla. Power Corp.*, 593 So. 2d 500, 503 (Fla. 1992). “Importantly, to establish a duty, the zone of risk created by a defendant's conduct “must have been reasonably foreseeable, not just possible.” *Graham v. Langley*, 683 So. 2d 1147, 1148 (Fla. 5th DCA 1996).

B. The District cannot be liable for at property that it did not own or operate.

Plaintiff's Complaint, specifically Counts I, fails to allege sufficient ultimate facts to state a cause of action for Count I listed therein. Rather, the complaint merely states false legal conclusions that IGNITE LIFE CENTER, INC., was a “district affiliated church,” that DISTRICT operated the “Ignite Summer Internship,” and that DISTRICT selected, assigned, trained, and supervised employees of the “Ignite Summer Internship.”

COUNT I—NEGLIGENCE AGAINST DISTRICT.

Count I makes vague and false assertions that DISTRICT negligently breached duties to Plaintiff. Plaintiff has not and cannot allege ultimate facts to establish, or give DISTRICT, actual notice as to the duty being claimed, the alleged breach of same and further fails to identify viable damages. IGNITE LIFE CENTER, INC., is not a district affiliated church, and DISTRICT had no roll or responsibility in the operation of the “Ignite Summer Internship.” As such, Count I fails to state a cause of action, and therefore must be dismissed.

II. THIS COURT LACKS SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION OVER MATTERS OF DOCTRINE OR CHURCH GOVERNANCE.

The “ecclesiastical abstention doctrine” precludes courts from exercising jurisdiction where the substance and nature of the plaintiff’s claims are inextricably intertwined with matters of doctrine or church governance. The U.S. Supreme Court has, as recently as 2021, reaffirmed that “[b]ecause courts are prohibited from risking judicial entanglement with ecclesiastical matters . . . if the substance and nature of the plaintiff’s claims are inextricably intertwined with matters of doctrine or church governance, then the case must be dismissed.” *In re Diocese of Lubbock*, 624 S.W.3d 506 (2021) (citing *Jennison v. Prasifka*, 391 S.W.3d 660, 665, 668 (Tex. App. –Dallas 2013, no pet.)). The Court in *Lubbock*, also states that to make a determination, a court should look to the substance and nature of the plaintiff’s claims, citing *Patton v. Jones*, 212 S.W.3d 541, 548 (Tex. App.-Austin 2006, pet. Denied).

As the U.S. Supreme Court indicated in *Lubbock*, courts are prohibited from even “risking judicial entanglement with ecclesiastical matters.” *Lubbock* at 514. Plaintiff’s lawsuit is inextricably intertwined with matters of doctrine or church governance, and thus must be dismissed.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing reasons, arguments, and legal authorities cited herein, DISTRICT respectfully submits to this Honorable Court that DISTRICT’s Motion to Dismiss be GRANTED for the following reasons: (1) Plaintiff fails to state a viable cause of action against DISTRICT by making general legal conclusions, and failing to identify viable

damages against DISTRICT; and (2) This Honorable Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction as the matters at issue relate to ecclesiastical matters.

WHEREFORE, the Defendant, FLORIDA MULTICULTURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC., respectfully request this Honorable Court enter an Order Granting the Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Count I, and for any and all further relief this Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on September 17, 2025 a true and correct copy of the foregoing ***Defendant's Motion to Dismiss*** was furnished by filing through the Florida E-portal electronic filing system which sends notification by email to:

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