



**FACT SHEET**  
***River of Life Kingdom Ministries***  
***v. Village of Hazel Crest***

***ABOUT River of Life Kingdom Ministries v. Village of Hazel Crest***

On Sept. 9, 2007, the pastor of River of Life Kingdom Ministries applied to the village of Hazel Crest, Ill., for a special use permit, requesting permission to use property it had purchased as a church. In January 2008, the village's board of trustees voted 6-1 to deny the application. Any church wishing to locate in the village is required to obtain special permission, which the village did not require of non-religious businesses and other organizations.

***CURRENT STATUS OF River of Life Kingdom Ministries v. Hazel Crest AS OF 02/23/10***

ADF-allied attorney David Langdon filed a lawsuit on behalf of River of Life Kingdom Ministries in federal court on Feb. 15, 2008. The court ruled against the church, and Langdon appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, which denied a motion for preliminary injunction to allow the church to use the property. Langdon subsequently filed a petition for review to the entire panel of the 7th Circuit, which it granted. ADF Senior Legal Counsel Jeff Shafer is serving as co-counsel on the case, and ADF has provided funding for the lawsuit. Langdon will present oral argument before the court on Feb. 24.

***FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?***

The right for churches and ministries to meet at their own property without illegitimate government restrictions and interference is at stake. The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act is a federal law that protects churches from discrimination in land use disputes with local governments.

***CONTACT***

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***ABOUT ADF***

ADF is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. Launched in 1994, ADF employs a unique combination of [strategy, training, funding, and litigation](#) to protect and preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family.

***ABOUT David Langdon***

David Langdon, of the Cincinnati law firm Langdon Law, LLC, is one of more than 1,600 attorneys in the ADF alliance.