



The Alliance Defense Fund has been involved in hundreds of cases in defense of religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and traditional values. The stories below are just a small sampling of the ongoing battle to protect our religious liberty, reclaim what we have lost, and shape a future where religious freedom is affirmed.

## **THE CASE OF THE PINK TRIANGLE THE CASE OF THE SCHOOL SAFE ZONE**

When Neil and Kathleen Houde learned that their daughter had been subjected to a lecture promoting homosexual behavior by her English teacher, they wrote their local school board to express their objections to the school district's "Pink Triangle" program which provides homosexual "mentors" to impressionable high school students.

The English teacher headed this program and provided "sexual counseling" to students at the local high school.

When their daughter tried to share her Christian views on homosexual behavior with the teacher, she was chastised and told that she was "narrow minded" and "wrong."

After the teacher learned about the Houdes' complaint and news of it appeared in the local newspaper, the teacher filed suit against them, **seeking more than \$15,000 for "emotional distress, embarrassment, anxiety, mental suffering, humiliation, and other damages."**

Homosexual activists got wind of the lawsuit and through an Internet campaign, poured thousands of dollars into the legal fight against the Houdes. It was their hope to intimidate and silence other Christians who might take a stand against pro-homosexual propaganda at school.

But because of the publicity and by God's grace, the school board reviewed the "safe zone" policy and voted to discontinue it. The lawsuit was dismissed.

## **THE CASE OF THE CROSS NECKLACE**

Kandice Smith was an eleven-year-old sixth grader who wore her cross necklace outside her clothes at school without incident – until a change in Walker County, Alabama school district policy which prohibited neck jewelry from being worn outside an individual's shirt.

Kandice believed she should be able to wear her cross necklace as a means of expressing her Christian faith to others. In September 1999, the principal of her school told her that she would have to hide her cross necklace even though the district policy specifically had a religious exemption that said, "reasonable accommodations should be made for religious beliefs if such functioning would not unduly interfere with the effective functioning of the school room."

With ADF funding, a lawsuit was filed against the school, and Kandice's right to freely express her faith was upheld!

## **THE CASE OF THE PAYROLL DEDUCTION**

Pennsylvania, like many states, has a matching gift fund to which state employees can contribute some of their own private funds to charities. For three straight years, Prison Fellowship and others were excluded from participating in Pennsylvania's State Employee Combined Appeal (SECA) on the sole basis of their sectarian status and because they promoted a "religious viewpoint."

So, if you were a state employee in Pennsylvania, you could give money through the combined appeal to any charity you wanted – as long as the charity was not Prison Fellowship or one of the others that the state did not approve of. The state was adamant that it not allow state employees to make payroll deduction gifts to other such Prison Fellowship ministries such as Angel Tree – which provides Christmas gifts to children of inmates, Neighbors Who Care, which helps victims of crime, and Transition of Prisoners, which assists former inmates return to their communities.

ADF funded a lawsuit that required SECA to provide equal opportunity to Prison Fellowship and other Christian groups that had been excluded from participation. After the first day of the trial, it was evident that the state had no rational reason for this discriminatory policy and they had to settle. As a result, employees can now give to the charity of their choice through the state's payroll deduction plan.