

AIDS Services for Monadnock Region Sues Gilsum to End Illegal Restrictions on Group Home

September 24, 2008 -- GLAD filed suit today in Keene Superior Court on behalf of AIDS Services for the Monadnock Region (ASMR), which operates a group home in Gilsum for people with HIV and Hepatitis C. The lawsuit asserts that the Town of Gilsum has illegally restricted the client population who can live in Cleve Jones Wellness House, where clients receive intensive support, services, and supervision.

After unsuccessful efforts to exclude Wellness House entirely, the town granted the home a zoning variance in 2005, allowing it to operate but forbidding the residence from housing people who 1) have been released from prison in the last 12 months; 2) have a history of drug or alcohol abuse and have not been substance-free for 12 months; or 3) have been convicted of a list of criminal offenses.

According to the lawsuit, the town has no legal authority to impose these conditions under New Hampshire's state zoning laws, and its restrictions violate the guarantee of equal protection promised in New Hampshire's constitution. ASMR is represented by Bennett Klein and Michele Granda of GLAD and Stephen Bragdon of Bragdon & Berkson, PC of Keene.

As appearing on the [GLAD](#) website.