

December 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Not too long ago, December always brought issues with Christmas activities in public places. Most often, it was the celebration of the birth of Christ by students in public schools and persons in government facilities. Sometimes, the alleged unconstitutional behavior was nothing more than delivering Christmas cards to fellow students. That is clearly protected constitutional speech. Public schools also wished to recognize the many aspects of Christmas, including its Christian beginnings. Those activities were usually prohibited.

On public property manger scenes were prohibited, until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that if you had other aspects of Christmas present, such as Santa and the Reindeer, that would be alright. We pejoratively call that the “Plastic Reindeer Test”.

We are not aware of the extent of Christian activities in public schools and public places during Christmas at the present time. We believe there are probably less of those activities than in days before. On the other hand, we know that through many years of our educational activities and threats of lawsuits, public schools and public authorities began to understand what is permitted.

If you are aware of any threats against persons for these activities, please refer them to us. We will be glad to advise them without charge.

Thank you for your continuing support throughout the year. We are looking forward to a prosperous New Year. We expect many legislative initiatives for which we can provide legal advice, including the sanctity of life, parental rights, protection of children from pornography, religious freedom, and the old serpent that comes back so very often, gambling. Your support makes our participation in these contests possible.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, we are,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston

AEJ/jfj

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