

Human Rights Commissioners Reject Request

ANCHORAGE — Robert Willard, the Executive Director of the State Human Rights Commission recently announced that the agency's seven-member board of Commissioners rejected the Department of Health and Social Services' request for reconsideration of an age discrimination case.

The board met in Juneau on October 12 and 13 and in making the decision served notice on the Department in a letter to Commissioner Frederick P. McGinnis signed by five of the seven members.

The director released a copy of the Commissioner's letter to McGinnis which states in part:

"The petition for reconsideration in the matter of Bessie G. Stevens vs. MacLaughlin Youth Center is hereby denied. Procedurally, the Commission is governed by the Alaska Administrative code which provides discretionary authority to reopen the matter properly before the Board of Commissioners . . . the issues raised in the petition incapable warrant reopening the proceedings in this matter."

The Hearing Commissioners "instructed the department to take appropriate compliance with the order within fifteen days before proceeding with legal action to enforce the Commission's Order".

Willard remained in Juneau for the week on annual leave in hopes of "being there when Congressman (Nick) Begich comes walking home".