

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA,

vs.

ROGER CUSICK CHRISTIE,  
SHERRYANNE L. CHRISTIE,

Defendants.

CR. NO. 10-00384 LEK

DECLARATION OF  
SHERRYANNE L. CHRISTIE

DECLARATION OF SHERRYANNE L. CHRISTIE

I, Sherryanne L. Christie, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am a Defendant in the above-captioned case. The facts and statements set forth below are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. I pray and intend to raise a defense under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act at trial in this case and prevail. Set forth below is an explanation of my sincere religious beliefs.
3. I have believed in the sacramental use of indigenous earth-based healing sacraments for many years.
4. As a child, I had learning disabilities. As a teenager, I had nightmares. As an adult, I have had numerous physical health challenges. I believe based on my own personal life experiences and travels, that the sincere use

of healing sacraments, as well as other spiritual healing techniques, including yoga, Tai Chi, acupuncture, and hypnosis deepen our awareness to our connection with God and the planet, which is God's creation.

5. In the 1970s, I studied Oriental medicine, herbology and macrobiotic cooking. I prepared healing foods for people who had cancer and other dissipating disease. I believe that nourishing our bodies with herbs and macrobiotic cooking deepens our awareness of our connection with God. I believe that since our body houses our Spirit, cleansing and caring for our body brings us closer to God-Realization.

6. I continued to teach and practice Oriental medicine, herbology and macrobiotic cooking in the 1980s.

7. Today, I live on and operate a farm, which allows me to continue connecting with God through the earth, and to nourish my spirit and body with organic foods and macrobiotic cooking.

8. In 1975, I met Douglas Cardinal, a Native American architect who was under the apprenticeship of Raymond Harris of the Arapaho Nation of Wyoming for 15 years. I followed a Native American spiritual path under his guidance for many years, and participated in numerous sweats and healing ceremonies. In the early 1980s, I participated in a physically strenuous three day fast which was a "vision quest." I also participated in a sacred Sundance ceremony

the following year. Attached hereto as Exhibit 3 is an email from Douglas Cardinal concerning my spiritual journey under his guidance. During this part of my spiritual journey, I was presented with the title "Pipe Carrier."

9. I continued participating in Native American ceremonies in the 1990s.

10. Today, I continue my Native American spiritual practices on my farm, where I have a sweat lodge and a medicine wheel.

11. In the 1990s, I also began studying permaculture sustainable living in Baja, Mexico. I became the general manager for Aldrich family ranch and eventually moved with the Aldrichs to Hawaii.

12. Today, my farm has a permaculture design and operation, which includes my spiritual practices of caring for the earth and connecting with the earth in caring for ourselves. The voluntary simplicity that is part of my permaculture living is integral to my spiritual path.

13. In 2007, I heard Roger Christie speak about the spiritual Cannabis sacrament, and all the beautiful things this plant can do. I was impressed, and subconsciously I knew that this was the man my higher self knew. Suddenly, the connections came together for me, the spiritual healing I had learned and the spiritual seeking I had done had all been leading to this: Cannabis is the tree of life for the healing of the nations.

14. In October 2007, I moved into Roger Christie's condo as a roommate.

My training for the THC Ministry began. I learned to make the Holy Anointing Oil, which is a very sacred ceremony.

15. In January 2008, Roger and I began our romantic love relationship. After that, I began spending more time at the THC Ministry. Much of my contribution to the Ministry was in reorganizing the sacred space and creating in the kitchen.

16. Roger's leadership in the ministry was impressive, because his sincerity was so clear and his counseling was always so comforting. Under Roger's leadership, I became ordained in July 2008. I share in all of the THC Ministry's beliefs.

17. I felt an honor and a privilege to manage the Ministry when Roger broke his ankle. I counseled and took donations and shared Cannabis Sacrament with Ministry members and medical marijuana patients.

18. I distributed "Aloha Bags" to Ministry members in need. "Aloha Bags" consist of small amounts of loose Cannabis sprinkled with calamus in airy bags. I found it a critical part of the THC Ministry's mission to help members in need. Cannabis is spiritual food, and those who have need of spiritual food are as needy or needier than those who need food for the body. I know that it was safe because I have known for years that no one ever died from Cannabis.

19. Cannabis has an attribute that brightens everything up, so I become

sensitive to my consciousness. When I am facing a challenge, Cannabis can help through the process I call “shape-shifting.” I inhale twice, and usually within the hour, I have an “aha” moment. This is direct Divine intervention.

20. The THC Ministry was open about its activities. Roger was a public figure. Roger informed me about his contacts with federal, state and local law enforcement authorities. Roger told me that none of these officials ever expressed concern about the Ministry’s activities, and that he believed the THC Ministry’s activities were protected religious practices. I shared this belief.

21. The consumption, possession, cultivation and distribution of Cannabis are essential and necessary components of the THC Ministry. The threat of civil and/or criminal liability for my membership in the THC Ministry and my sincere participation in its required practices substantially burdens my exercise of religion.

22. I declare under penalty of law that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated: Puna, Hawaii, April 1, 2013.

/s/ Sherryanne L. Christie  
SHERRYANNE L. CHRISTIE