

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

**KATHLEEN BRITT, individually and )  
As the Surviving Parent of JASON BRITT, and )  
As Personal Representative on behalf of JASON )  
BRITT, deceased )**

**Plaintiffs )**

**VS. )**

**Case No. 6:23-CV-3316 )**

**AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH, INC. d/b/a )  
AGAPE BOARDING SCHOOL )**

**Serve: Bryan Clemensen )  
Registered Agent )  
12998 E. 1400 Road )  
Stockton, MO 65785 )**

**JULIO SANDOVAL individually and in his role )  
As Dean of Students for Agape Boarding School )**

**SAFE, SOUND AND SECURE YOUTH )  
MINISTRIES, INC., )**

**BRENT JACKSON, Individually and in his role )  
As Vocational Director and Staff member for )  
Agape Boarding School )**

**Scott Dumar, individually and in his role as )  
Medical Director, Member of the Board of )  
Directors and Staff member for Agape )  
Boarding School )**

**Jon Wilke, Individually and in his role as Staff )  
Member for Agape Boarding School )**

**DAVID WILSON, Individually and in his Role )**

**As Staff Member at Agape Boarding School** )  
 )  
**ROBERT GRAVES, Individually and in his** )  
**Role as Staff Member at Agape Boarding School** )  
**And individually and as Deputy Sheriff** )  
**for Cedar County, State of Missouri** )  
 )  
 )  
**CEDAR COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT** )  
**JAMES “JIMBOB” McCRARY, Sheriff,** )  
**in his Individual** )  
**And Official Capacity** )  
 )  
 )  
**Defendants** )

**PLAINTIFF’S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

COME NOW PLAINTIFFS, KATHLEEN BRITT, individually and  
 As the Surviving Parent of JASON BRITT, and As Personal Representative on behalf of JASON  
 BRITT, deceased and for the causes of action on behalf of all plaintiffs duly allege as follows:

**Nature of Complaint**

1. Agape Baptist Church, a cover for Agape Boarding School and its officers and directors, ran a “school” akin to a concentration camp or torture colony cloaked in the guise of religion.
2. The individual Agape defendants – Sandoval, Jackson, Wilke and Dumar – engaged in violence and sexual assault of children at the school, including Jason Britt.
3. Agape Baptist Church ignored the complaints of abuse, negligently failed to report the allegations to the Children’s Division, aided and abetted the abuse, negligently hired, trained and supervised its staff members and engaged in other tortious behavior that caused Jason Britt harm.

4. Agape Baptist Church and the Agape Defendants engaged in a continuing pattern of behavior that defrauded Plaintiff Kathleen Britt, representing the school as a warm, family style school guaranteeing an accredited Christian-based education. All of those representations were false and caused Kathleen Britt severe economic and emotional injury.

5. The Cedar County Sheriff's office and the named defendants violated Plaintiff Jason Britt's constitutional rights and they engaged in actions that they knew or should have known would cause irreparable harm to the decedent, Jason Britt. The actions of the Cedar County Sheriff's office were taken as part of an official policy or practice of the Cedar County Sheriff's Office.

6. Safe, Sound and Secure Youth Ministries, Inc., its predecessor corporation and / or Julio Sandoval removed Jason from his home, taking him to Agape Boarding School at a time it was on notice that he would be assaulted, sexually abused, and pushed into forced labor, misrepresenting to him that they had the authority of law enforcement and engaging in assaultive behaviors and manipulation and coercion during the "transport" of Jason.

7. As a result of the physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse of Jason Britt, he began making life choices that caused his kidneys and heart to fail. He took copious amounts of steroids in an effort to be strong enough to never again be subjugated and raped. He died as a result in February of 2022.

8. Plaintiff's mother, for herself, on behalf of Jason and as representative of his estate brings these causes of action for wrongful death and survival pursuant to Missouri law and for trafficking under 18 U.S.C. §§1589, 1591 and 1595.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9. This court has jurisdiction over the causes of action asserted herein and over the parties to this action. Plaintiffs assert claims under Missouri Common law and the Missouri Wrongful Death and Survivor statutes. Additionally, Plaintiffs assert claims under 18 U.S.C. § 1589, 18 U.S.C. § 1591 and 18 U.S.C. § 1595.

10. All of the acts complained of herein occurred within this judicial district, vesting this Court with subject matter jurisdiction.

11. Plaintiff Kathleen Britt is a resident of the State of Idaho. The Estate of Jason Britt has been opened in the State of Idaho. All defendants are Missouri residents. Complete diversity exists and venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

12. Venue is proper in this judicial district under one or more of the following statutes: 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 1367 and / or § 1391(b)(1).

### **PARTIES**

13. Plaintiff Kathleen Britt is a resident of the State of Idaho. Her son, the decedent Jason Britt, was a minor at the time of the abuse and negligence set forth herein. He died in February 2022 as a result of the abuse and neglect inflicted upon him at Agape Boarding School.

14. At all material times, Defendant Agape Baptist Church d/b/a Agape Boarding School [hereafter “Agape”] was a non-profit corporation doing business in Missouri with its principal place of business located at 12998 E. 1400 Road, Stockton, MO 65785-8547. The School was founded by James Clemenson and his son Bryan Clemenson is now the registered agent for the School.

15. Defendant JULIO SANDOVAL was Dean of Students for Agape Boarding School at the relevant times. Upon information and belief, he was also part of the transportation of Jason Britt to Agape Boarding School. Although indicted for a felony in the State of

California, Sandoval is currently on the Board of Directors of ABM Ministries d/b/a Lighthouse Christian Ministries, an unlicensed boarding school in Piedmont, Missouri. Sandoval engaged in physical and sexual abuse of Plaintiff, violated the Wilbforce Trafficking Act and engaged in negligence in his role as Dean of Students for Agape. Upon information and belief, Sandoval also worked part time for the Cedar County Sheriff's department as a corrections officer.

16. Brent Jackson is a resident of Lamar, Missouri. At all relevant times Jackson was a staff member and / or vocational director at Agape Boarding School. Jackson engaged in the physical and sexual abuse of Plaintiff, violated the Wilbforce Trafficking Act and engaged in negligence in his role as staff member and Vocational Director at Agape.

17. Scott Dumar is a resident of Stockton, Missouri. At all relevant times, Dumar was the Medical Director and staff member at Agape Boarding School. Dumar engaged in the physical and sexual abuse of plaintiff and negligently failed to provide medical services to the boy while he was a student at Agape. Dumar engaged in the physical and sexual abuse of Plaintiff, violated the Wilbforce Trafficking Act and engaged in negligence in his role as staff member and Medical Director at Agape.

18. Jon Wilke is a resident of the state of Missouri. At all times, Wilke was the School Supervisor and staff member at Agape Boarding School. Dumar engaged in the physical and sexual abuse of plaintiff. Wilke engaged in the physical and sexual abuse of Plaintiff, violated the Wilbforce Trafficking Act and engaged in negligence in his role as staff member and School Supervisor at Agape.

19. David Wilson is a resident of the state of Missouri. At all times, Wilson was a staff member at Agape Boarding School. Wilson engaged in the physical and sexual abuse of plaintiff, violated the Wilbforce Trafficking Act and engaged in negligence in his role as staff

member at Agape. Upon information and belief, prior to his employment with Agape, Wilson had been convicted of criminal behavior.

20. Robert Graves is a resident of Cedar County. At all times, Graves was a security personnel for Agape Boarding School as well as a Deputy Sheriff for Cedar County. Upon information and belief, he also was engaged in transport of students to Agape Boarding School. Graves knew of the physical and sexual abuse of plaintiff as well as others.

21. The Cedar County Sheriff Department personnel knew of multiple reports of sexual and physical abuse at Agape Boarding School and its sister property, Circle of Hope Boarding School. Despite these reports, children who reported or ran away were routinely returned to the Schools without investigation or reporting to the Children's Division.

Additionally, an inherent conflict of interest existed in that Graves, Sandoval and others worked at both Agape and Cedar County Sheriff's Department. Despite that fact, some of these same individuals were responsible for the investigation of reports of abuse. The Cedar County Sheriff's Department had an official policy or unofficial practice or lack of training that caused the violation of these children's rights – including Jason Britt.

22. Sheriff Jimbob McCrary has been the Sheriff of Cedar County since approximately 2017. Prior to becoming Sheriff, he worked as both Police Chief for Stockton and in law enforcement at the Cedar County Sheriff's office. During his tenure with the Sheriff's Department, McCrary became aware of and "investigated" reports of abuse at Agape Boarding School. Sheriff McCrary took no actions regarding the inherent conflict of interest that existed as his employees were some of the same individuals who had reports of abuse made against them. No effective actions were taken regarding the reports of abuse. Sheriff McCrary maintained a policy or practice of refusing to investigate and / or report allegations of abuse at

Agape, returning children to the school for further abuse. Sheriff McCrary failed to train his officers and deputies causing foreseeable harm to these children.

### **BACKGROUND FACTS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

23. Jason Britt grew up in a religious household. His father was a coach. Although Britt was athletic, he was small in high school.

24. Jason attended private schools until he was in Junior High School. At fifteen, he went to public school. There he met his first girlfriend. He was an honor student. In the second semester, he began partying and his grades and sports performance declined.

25. He began partying with drugs some and drinking. Aside from recreational use of drugs and alcohol, he had no health issues at the time.

26. His parents became increasingly distraught about his partying and threatened him with boarding school. Then, when he was sixteen, he was taken to Agape Boarding School.

27. Kathleen Britt learned of Agape from a boarding school in Colorado. That school referred her, telling her that Agape was a very good school that got good results.

28. When Kathleen contacted Agape, she was told that they operated under the values that Kathleen desired – a safe, kind and Christian environment free from drugs and alcohol.

29. Kathleen was told that it was a family oriented school in which they used structure and a disciplined way of life to encourage learning. She was also told that they had women and men in a family setting that would talk to and counsel Jason. She was assured that he could go to them and talk any time he needed to, just like a family.

30. Kathleen was concerned about schooling and spoke to Agape directly about it. She was told that the boys worked on school every day, that the school was accredited and would transfer back to his regular high school.

31. Agape told Kathleen of their success stories; of the fun events they had -- like 4<sup>th</sup> of July parties and celebrations. She was told that the boys had lots of activities including interactions with animals, sports and group activities. Pictures on the Agape website supported these representations.

32. Kathleen Britt is in law enforcement. Her background told her to question supervision. Agape represented that the boys were never left unattended and specifically promised there would be no sexual violence toward her son.

33. Jason Britt had psoriasis and required medical care for that. Agape represented that he would receive appropriate medical treatment for that.

34. Agape recommended transport for Jason to Agape. It was Kathleen Britt's understanding that Julio Sandoval or his company was responsible for that transportation.

35. The night that Jason was transported to Agape, he was staying at his girlfriend's house in a guest bedroom. In the middle of the night, he was awakened by two men who zip tied his hands behind his back, marched him out of the house and drove him to the airport.

36. One of the men wore a uniform. Britt was told that Agape had temporary custody / adoption papers which were presented at the airport.

37. After he got to Stockton, the first act at Agape was to shave his head.

38. Britt quickly learned of the discipline, the forced labor and system of shirts. The boys were given shirts, the color of which determined their rank. Brown shirts were the lowest rank and had the fewest privileges. The boys were not allowed to speak to each other for long periods of time.

39. Britt asked one of the staff members how long students usually stayed. He was told that those who graduate could go home. Britt worked hard to complete the Paces curriculum



as quickly as possible, sometimes completing two pace books per day. He studied hard to try to get out of Agape.

40. He saw the other boys being required to stand on the wall, forced to excessive exercise, have their food and water restricted, called names, physically abused and punished. He tried to stay out of trouble.

41. During his time there, Jason was not in trouble but also not promoted. Brent Jackson took a dislike to Plaintiff and told him he did not trust him because he did not get in trouble.

42. Kathleen Britt sent care packages weekly to Jason. She sent him encouraging notes and letters, newspaper clippings from his school sports, condiments for his food, encouraging notes and other things.

43. Agape did not give those care packages to Jason. He had to borrow toothpaste from a friend.

44. Jason tried to send a letter to his parents. Agape reviewed all of the letters the boys tried to send and would not send those that had anything disparaging about Agape. Jason tried to write cryptically that Agape was not what his mother believed it was but Agape staff caught it.

45. Brent Jackson pulled open the letter and required Jason to read it aloud. Jason demurred. As soon as he demurred, he was sent to the table with the brown shirts. A big man who was a staff member told him to start jumping jacks. Then he falsely accused Jason of trying to hit him.

46. The big man and Brent Jackson took Jason to another room where they fully restrained him, using pressure points to cause severe pain.

47. Jason was told to take off his pants and shirt. He took off his shirt assuming he was going to be demoted but refused to remove his pants. At that point, Sandoval and Wilke came into the room. Wilke grabbed Plaintiff and hit him multiple times, cutting Jason's eye in the process. Sandoval and Wilke held plaintiff down; he was gang raped in that room.

48. One of them had a broom or mop handle that they shoved into his rectum. They took his clothes including those bloodied during the gang rape.

49. After the beating and gang rape, Jason was allowed to shower. He was allowed warm water and a long shower. Usually, the showers were cool at best and limited to five minutes.

50. He was taken to see Dr. Smock, a physician with a clinic in Stockton, where his eye was stitched up. A staff member stayed with him the entire time he was at the doctor's office.

51. Thereafter, Jason was busted to brown shirt. He was given only cereal for two weeks and told he would be restrained if he did not eat it.

52. Agape had rules regarding parental visits and calls. Allegedly to assist the boys in adjusting to a new environment, parents were not allowed to speak to their children often. Kathleen counted the days until they could talk or go see Jason in person.

53. When she was finally able to speak to him, Jason was subdued. She chalked it up to having staff in the room with him.

54. They saved money to be able to travel to Missouri. When she saw him, she hardly recognized him. His complexion was pale and his face broken out. He would not speak above a whisper; he told her that it was because they were not generally allowed to speak at all. Jason was reserved and would not tell her what was happening.

55. Kathleen Britt saw a young boy about 13 standing against a wall sobbing uncontrollably and no one comforted him. Kathleen did not sleep that night and decided to take Jason home. The school resisted, reminding her of her contract. Ms. Britt took Jason home.

56. Jason was quiet for months after he got home. Eventually he told her of the intense labor and what happened to kids who were sick or unable to complete the work. Over the course of several years, Ms. Britt learned that virtually every representation made by Agape had been a lie.

57. Jason came home completely different. He was unable to re-engage at his school and finished his high school in on line classes. He had high anxiety and was withdrawn. He took an interest in weightlifting as a way of attempting to protect himself from sexual assault.

58. After Jason returned from Agape, he began to work out constantly and to use steroids. He wanted to be an athlete so he could never be subjugated again.

59. He became a power lifter, working out and trying to build, build, build. He went to the US PA Competition and broke the 18/19 year old World Record.

60. He began competing in laser sprint training and then decided to play football at Mesa Junior College. He was successful but was consistently being hit and had three concussions. After that, he went back to power lifting.

61. At 20, he broke the 20-23 National power lift record. He competed at the 181 pound weight class but weighed 205. He engaged in Mixed Martial Arts and UFC boxing. He would cut his water weight in the steam room then rehydrate after the matches.

62. He began not being able to meet the 180 pound weight limit and the steroids were beginning to affect his vision.

63. After being dropped from the Iron Rebel scholarship program, he began asking 1500 mg of testosterone and HGH peptides as well as injecting HRT testosterone and Trenbolone, an anabolic steroid.

64. His blood pressure elevated to 273 over 129 and he had chest pains and left arm pains. His kidneys began to shut down and he needed a kidney transplant.

65. Because of his continued steroid use, he was not a candidate for the kidney transplant. His extreme anxiety and panic attacks caused him to be placed on Xanax. He was also given injected Fentanyl for pain medication.

66. Jason's physical and mental health kept deteriorating. He was depressed, anxious and suicidal. He wrote a suicide note about six months before he died. He took drugs including cocaine and mushrooms.

67. He suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and had difficulty handling interactions with people in normal settings like going to the grocery store.

68. Jason attended counseling, as does Kathleen Britt, as a result of the post traumatic stress disorder that each suffered. Jason tried to stop drinking and drugs but he could never keep himself together.

69. Jason died of multi-organ failure in February, 2022 at the age of 29. The steroids, testosterone, high blood pressure and anxiety coupled with the drug addiction were the mechanism of his death; the cause of his death was the abuse at Agape.

70. Jason did not suffer any of these maladies prior to attending Agape. He had engaged in recreational / experimental drug use but not to the degree as following Agape.

71. Kathleen Britt watched helplessly as her son courageously battled to get his life back. Kathleen was and felt completely betrayed by Agape. Agape took from her her beloved son.

72. Kathleen Britt contacted the Cedar County Sheriff's Office once the actions of Agape became known to her. Despite her contact, the Cedar County Sheriff's office took no action to protect the other children.

73. In his suicide note, Jason wrote that he hoped his life would be significant by making sure other children were protected from Agape and what he experienced.

74. Jason Britt suffered substantial pain and suffering between the time of the negligence and abuses he experienced at Agape and the time of his death.

75. Agape holds itself out as a Christian school. However, that appellation is merely cover for a criminal enterprise.

76. Agape and the staff members used their position of power to force silence on the boys under their care.

77. Agape knew of the abuses being meted out on the children there as they were conducted by managing members of the organization including the Dean of Students, Medical Director, School Supervisor and Security Officer. Further, the restraining of children was taught by the school directors to students and staff so that the children would be placed in severe and excruciating pain during those periods of restraint.

78. Denial of food, water, medical care, extreme exercise, humiliation, denigration, physical assault and sexual assault were all used as means of control over the children who were placed there.

79. As a result of the representations made by Agape and by virtue of the fact that Defendants held themselves out as the counselors and instructors on matters that were moral and ethical as well as the physical restraints placed on the boys, defendants had domination and influence over Plaintiff. In addition, by accepting the care, custody and control of the minor decedent, Defendants stood in an *in loco parentis* relationship with Jason.

80. Defendants acted with depraved hearts knowing harm was substantially likely to occur, including the damages to Plaintiffs described herein and other similarly situated children. Defendants knew or should have known this outrageous behavior would cause emotional distress to the families of the victims, including Plaintiffs.

81. As a direct result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Decedent and Plaintiffs suffered and Plaintiffs continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; was prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing their daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; sustained loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

82. Jason Britt died as a direct and proximate result of the abuses of Defendants' wrongful conduct and / or was deprived of a material chance of survival.

#### **WRONGFUL DEATH CAUSES OF ACTION**

83. Kathleen Britt is the mother of the decedent, Jason Britt.

84. Kathleen Britt is an appropriate plaintiff to represent the interests of the individuals found in the primary class of plaintiffs pursuant to R.S.MO. 537.080.

85. Each of the Defendants is jointly and severally liable for the death of Plaintiff Jason Britt under multiple causes of action. The causes of action for Wrongful Death against the defendants are set forth as follows:

**COUNT 1: CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE DEFENDANTS SANDOVAL, WILKE, GRAVES, DUMAR, JACKSON AND WILSON**

86. Plaintiffs incorporate all paragraphs of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.

87. Defendants Sandoval, Wilke, Graves, Dumar, Jackson and Wilson engaged in physical assault and sexual conduct and contact upon the person of the Decedent, a minor. Said acts were committed while Defendants were acting within the course and scope of employment with Agape and were committed while Defendants Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson and Jackson were managing agents of Agape and/or were ratified by Agape.

88. That the conduct of Sandoval, Wilke, Graves, Dumar, Jackson and Wilson caused or contributed to cause Jason Britt's death.

89. Decedent suffered great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; was prevented from performing his daily activities; great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; was prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing the daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; sustained loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or incurred expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

90. Defendants' actions as heretofore set forth constitute willful, wanton, and/or reckless conduct. Said willful, wanton and/or reckless conduct constitutes aggravating circumstances justifying punitive damages in this matter.

91. The conduct of Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson and Jackson caused or contributed to cause the death of Plaintiffs' son. Plaintiff Kathleen Britt has suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses, and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training, and support.

92. As a direct result of the conduct of these defendants, Jason Britt suffered lost future wages, lost earning capacity, mental anguish, pain of body and mind.

93. As a result of the above-described acts, Plaintiff Kathleen Britt has suffered, and continues to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; was prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing her daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; has sustained loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

## **COUNT 2: CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE DEFENDANT AGAPE**

94. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1-82 of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.

95. Defendants Sandoval, Wilke, Graves, Dumar, Jackson and Wilson engaged in physical assault and sexual conduct and contact upon the person of the Decedent, a minor. Said acts were committed while Defendants were acting within the course and scope of employment with Agape and were committed while Defendant Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson and Jackson were managing agents of Agape and/or were ratified by Agape

96. Decedent suffered great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace,



humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; was prevented from performing his daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; sustained pecuniary losses that survive his death and for which his personal representatives may recover on his behalf.

97. The acts were ratified by Agape as these defendants had both the permission and the imprimatur of Agape to take custody of boys and punish them, deprive them of food, water and medicine, engage them in forced labor, to restrain them in a manner that causes extreme and excruciating pain and other activities that Agape knew or should have known were occurring.

98. That the conduct of Agape and the staff defendants including Jackson, Wilson, Graves, Sandoval, Wilke and Sandoval caused or contributed to cause Jason Britt's death.

99. Defendants' actions as heretofore set forth constitute willful, wanton, or reckless conduct. Said willful, wanton and/or reckless conduct constitutes aggravating circumstances justifying punitive damages in this matter.

100. As a direct result of the conduct of Agape and the staff defendants including Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson, Wilke and Jackson, Plaintiff lost her son. Plaintiffs have suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses, and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training, and support.

101. As a direct result of the conduct of Agape, Decedent suffered lost future wages, lost earning capacity, mental anguish, pain of body and mind.

102. As a result of the above-described acts, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of

enjoyment of life; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing their daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; have sustained loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

103. As a direct result of the conduct of Agape and the staff defendants including Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson, Wilke and Jackson, Plaintiff lost her son. Plaintiffs have suffered pecuniary losses by reason of Jason's death including but not limited to funeral expense and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training and support.

**COUNT 3: Action under 18 U.S.C. § 1581 et seq.**

**(Defendants Agape, Sandoval, Safe, Sound & Secure Youth Ministries, Jackson,  
Dumar, Wilke, Wilson and Graves)**

104. Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs of this Petition heretofore pleaded as if fully set forth herein.

105. At the time Jason was taken to Agape, he was approximately 16 years of age.

106. Agape, Sandoval, Safe, Sound and Secure Youth Ministries, Inc., Jackson, Dumar, Wilke, Wilson, and Graves in activities that affected interstate commerce, including transporting of students across state lines, advertising and/or soliciting students via the internet, conferences, direct advertising, and other means across state lines and otherwise engaging in activities that affect interstate commerce.

107. Defendants placed Plaintiff in a condition of peonage while he resided at Agape.

108. Plaintiff was held and worked by lawless methods against his will for the purpose of compelling him to discharge real or alleged obligations, creating a condition of peonage under the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

109. Defendants knowingly obtained the labor or services of Plaintiff by means of force, threats of force, and threats of physical restraint to her and others in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1589.

110. Defendants knowingly obtained the labor or services of Plaintiff by means of serious harm or threats of serious harm to her or others in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1589(a)(2).

111. Defendants knowingly obtained the labor or services of Plaintiff by means of threatened abuse of law or legal process in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1589(a)(3).

112. Defendants knowingly obtained the labor or services of Plaintiff by means of a scheme, plan, and pattern intended to cause Plaintiff to believe that she or another person would suffer serious harm or restraint in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1589(a)(4).

113. All of the Defendants named in this count acted in reckless disregard of the fact that the venture engaged in the providing of labor through force, physical restraint, threats of physical restraint, serious harm or threats of serious harm to Plaintiff or another, through abuse of law and legal process, and by means of a scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause Plaintiff to believe that he would suffer serious harm or physical restraint if he failed to provide the labor or services.

114. Defendants performed sex acts on him by means of force, threats of force, and/or coercion.

115. Defendants performed sex acts upon Jason after he attained the age of 14 but had not attained the age of 18 in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1591.

116. Defendants all received benefits of value from participating in the joint venture in which peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons occurred. Each Defendant acted knowingly or in reckless disregard of the fact that the venture engaged in these violations.

117. Defendants knew or should have known that Agape and each individual defendant were engaging in acts in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1581 *et seq.* as part of their joint venture.

118. As a direct result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiff suffered great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; has sustained loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or has incurred expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

119. As a direct result of the conduct of Agape and the staff defendants including Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson, Wilke and Jackson, Plaintiff lost her son. Plaintiffs have suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses, and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training and support.

**COUNT 4: NEGLIGENCE**  
**((Defendants Agape, Sandoval, Safe, Sound & Secure Youth Ministries, Jackson,  
Dumar, Wilke, Wilson and Graves))**

120. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 – 82 of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.

121. Defendants had a duty to protect Plaintiff.

122. This duty arose from:

- a. Defendants' acceptance of custody and supervision of the child.
- b. The Plaintiff's presence on property controlled by the Defendants.

- c. The Defendants' affirmative acts that placed Plaintiff in danger and in the zone of danger.
  - d. Agape's employment of the Sandoval, Wilke, Wilson, Dumar, Graves and the transport company as their agents.
  - e. All Defendants' fiduciary and/or confidential relationship with the Plaintiff and his family. Upon information and belief, Agape, by and through their agents, servants and employees, knew or reasonably should have known of the individual defendants' dangerous and exploitive propensities and / or that they were unfit agents.
123. Despite such knowledge, the Defendants breached their duty to protect Plaintiff when they failed to protect Plaintiff from the sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and misfeasance described herein.
124. As a direct result of the conduct of Agape and the staff defendants including Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson, Wilke and Jackson, Plaintiff lost her son. Plaintiffs have suffered pecuniary losses by reason of Jason's death including but not limited to funeral expenses and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training and support.

**COUNT 5**  
**NEGLIGENT HIRING, SUPERVISION, RETENTION, AND FAILURE TO WARN**  
**(Defendants Agape, Sandoval, Safe, Sound & Secure Youth Ministries, Jackson, Dumar, Wilke, Wilson, and Graves)**

125. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 – 82 of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.
126. At all times material, Defendant Agape and the transport company supervised and

employed its staff members.

127. Defendants owed the Plaintiff a heightened standard of care because the Plaintiff was a minor in the custody and control of the Defendants, a status the Defendant invited.

128. Agape, by and through their agents, servants and employees, knew or reasonably should have known of its employees' and agents' dangerous and exploitative propensities and / or that they were unfit agents, and despite such knowledge, the Archdiocese negligently hired, retained and / or failed to supervise them in the positions of trust and authority as staff members of a boarding school where they were able to commit the wrongful acts against the Plaintiff.

129. Defendants failed to provide reasonable supervision of staff members, failed to use reasonable care in investigating, hiring and retaining and supervision of its staff members, and failed to provide adequate warning to Plaintiff, and his family, of their dangerous propensities.

130. Defendant Agape specifically breached their duty of care by failing to remove the abusive staff members, failing to report them, and failing to protect Plaintiff.

131. Defendants disregarded the known risk of sexual abuse.

132. Defendants' actions caused injury to Plaintiff.

133. As a direct result of the conduct of Agape and the staff defendants including Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson, Wilke and Jackson, Plaintiff lost her son. Plaintiffs have suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses, and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training and support.

**COUNT 6:**  
**NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO SUPERVISE CHILDREN**  
**ALL DEFENDANTS**

134. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1-82 of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.

135. Defendants each had a duty to protect children served by their churches.

136. Upon information and belief, Defendants, by and through their agents, servants and employees, knew or reasonably should have known of the individual defendants dangerous and exploitative propensities and/or that each was an unfit agent, and despite such knowledge, Defendants breached their duty to protect Decedent when they failed to protect Decedent from the acts described herein.

137. The Staff defendants – Graves, Wilke, Wilson, Sandoval, Dumar, Jackson -- each had a duty to supervise decedent but breached those duties to protect and supervise decedent by engaging in grooming activities, boundary violations, physical, emotional and sexual abuse of the minor decedent as described herein.

138. Defendants actions as heretofore set forth constitute willful, wanton, and/or reckless conduct. Said willful, wanton and/or reckless conduct constitutes aggravating circumstances justifying punitive damages in this matter.

139. Decedent suffered great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; was prevented from performing his daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; sustained pecuniary losses that survive his death and for which his personal representatives may recover on his behalf

140. As a direct result of the conduct of Defendants, Plaintiffs lost their son. They have suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses, and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training and support.

141. As a direct result of the conduct of Defendants, Decedent suffered lost future wages, lost earning capacity, mental anguish, pain of body and mind.

142. As a direct result of the conduct of Agape and the staff defendants including Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson, Wilke and Jackson, Plaintiff lost her son. Plaintiffs have suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses, and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training and support.

143. As a direct result of the conduct of Agape and the staff defendants including Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson, Wilke and Jackson, Plaintiff lost her son. Plaintiffs have suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses, and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training, and support.

**COUNT 7: FRAUD AND FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION**  
**(All Defendants)**

144. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraphs 1-82 of this Petition as if fully set forth herein.

145. Agape and the individual staff members sued herein engaged in Fraudulent misrepresentation to Plaintiff Kathleen Britt who made decisions on behalf of Jason Britt during his minority.

146. Agape made false material representations to Kathleen Britt including but not limited to the following:

- a. When Kathleen contacted Agape, she was told that they operated under the values that Kathleen desired – a safe, kind and Christian environment free from drugs and alcohol. This representation was false.



b. Kathleen was told that it was a family-oriented school in which they used structure and a disciplined way of life to encourage learning. She was also told that they had women and men in a family setting who would talk to and counsel Jason. She was assured that he could go to them and talk any time he needed to, just like a family. This representation was false.

c. Kathleen was concerned about schooling and spoke to Agape directly about it. She was told that the boys worked on school every day. This representation was false.

d. Kathleen was told that the school was accredited and would transfer back to his regular high school. This representation was false.

e. Agape told Kathleen of their success stories; of the fun events they had -- like 4<sup>th</sup> of July parties and celebrations. She was told that the boys had lots of activities including interactions with animals, sports and group activities. Pictures on the Agape website supported these representations but they were false.

f. Kathleen Britt is in law enforcement. Her background told her to question supervision. Agape represented that the boys were never left unattended and specifically promised there would be no sexual violence toward her son. These representations were false.

g. Jason Britt had psoriasis and required medical care for that. Agape represented that he would receive appropriate medical treatment for that. These representations were false.

147. The Agape Defendants, including the individual staff members sued herein, knew that the representations made about Agape were false or were willfully ignorant of the truth.

148. These representations were made with the intent that Plaintiff Kathleen Britt would decide on behalf of her minor son to send him to Agape.

149. Kathleen Britt did not know that the representations were false when they were given to her.

150. She relied on those representations, on behalf of her minor son, in making the choice to send him to Agape.

151. As a result of these representations, Jason Britt was injured.

152. As a direct result of the conduct of Agape and the staff defendants including Sandoval, Dumar, Graves, Wilson, Wilke and Jackson, Plaintiff lost her son. Plaintiffs have suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses, and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training and support.

153. Julio Sandoval and / or the transport company – whom Kathleen Britt believes was a company owned by and managed by Julio Sandoval -- who took Jason Britt to Agape made false representations to Kathleen Britt who made decisions on behalf of her minor child, Jason Britt.

154. Sandoval made false material representations to Kathleen Britt including but not limited to the following:

a). Sandoval promised to treat Jason Britt with dignity and respect. That representation was false.

b). Sandoval, through his website, assured parents he would help get their wayward sons on the right path. That representation was false.

c). Sandoval promised to transport children in a manner that was safe and compassionate. That representation was false. Sandoval's agents zip tied the hands of Jason Britt, threatened him with jail if he did not come with them and told Jason that he had been given up for adoption to Agape Boarding school, making him feel utterly abandoned.

d). Britt was given the opportunity to smoke cigarettes on the transport, which he had not previously done. He smoked approximately 4-5 cigarettes during that break. This does not constitute transporting children in a manner that was safe and compassionate.

e). Jason was awakened in the middle of the night, pulled from his bed and threatened with physical harm if he did not come peacefully. This does not constitute transporting of children in a safe and compassionate manner.

f). The individuals who transported Jason told him they were law enforcement and had the authority to take him as a result as well as coerce his cooperation. This representation was false.

155. The Cedar County Sheriff James McCrary, Robert Graves and others engaged in fraudulent concealment of the abuses occurring at Agape.

156. Defendants engaged in trickery, deceit and acts of deluding decedent and those who were in a position to act on decedent's behalf while a minor including the plaintiff Kathleen Britt. Defendants engaged in fraudulent concealment in the following particulars:

a. Defendants Cedar County Sheriff's department, Sheriff James McCrary, Robert Graves and other employees of the Cedar County Sheriff's Department received

multiple reports of abuse occurring at both Circle of Hope Boarding School and Agape Boarding School.

- b. The Sheriff Defendants knew at the time of the events in question that Circle of Hope and Agape had a unity of management and worked together in joint adventures as members of the Sheriff's Department worked at both entities.
- c. With regard to both Circle of Hope and Agape, the Department engaged in an official policy or unofficial practice in which they returned children who ran away or complained back to the facility.
- d. At the time they returned the children back to the facility or took reports of abuse, the Sheriff Defendants did not make required reports to the Children's Division.
- e. At the time they returned the children back to the facility or took reports of abuse, they Sheriff Defendants allowed individuals who worked at Agape to investigate the claims of abuse.
- f. At the time they returned the children back to the facility or took reports of abuse, the Sheriff Defendants failed to investigate the claims of abuse.
- g. At the time they returned the children back to the facility or took reports of abuse, the Sheriff Department maintained those who had been accused of abuse on its payroll including Defendants Sandoval and Graves.
- h. In the cases of Graves and Sandoval, they had actual knowledge that each had caused injury to the plaintiff and other children. Following that actual injury, each made statements designed to conceal the existence of any claim for abuse including threatening the children into silence and telling law enforcement that they knew the child to be a pathological liar or otherwise troubled or mentally ill.

157. The Agape Defendants including the individual staff members followed a policy that prohibited investigation into allegations of misconduct at Agape.

158. Defendants deliberately failed to report, warn or inform family members or any other individuals or organizations about the abuse of their children at Agape, instead telling them that their children were to blame for their own unhappiness.

159. The Agape Defendants including the individual staff defendants prevented parents from making visits to the facility in order to prevent them from knowing of the abuse of their children.

160. The Agape Defendants including the individual staff defendants prevented the children and parents from having private, unmonitored communications or telephone calls in order to prevent them from knowing of the abuse of their children.

161. The Agape Defendants including the individual staff defendants prevented the children from sending mail that included any negative comments about the school to their parents in order to conceal their abuses.

162. The Agape defendants including the staff defendants prevented the children from receiving letters or care packages sent to them by their parents causing the children to believe they had been abandoned thereby emotionally coercing them into silence in order to conceal their abuses.

163. Defendants knew that they misrepresented, concealed or failed to disclose information relating to misconduct occurring at Agape.

164. The conduct of all defendants caused or contributed to cause Jason Britt's death and / or deprived him of a material chance of survival.

165. Decedent suffered great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; was prevented from performing his daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; sustained pecuniary losses that survive his death and for which his personal representatives may recover on his behalf.

166. Defendants actions as heretofore set forth constitute willful, wanton, or reckless conduct. Said willful, wanton and/or reckless conduct constitutes aggravating circumstances justifying punitive damages in this matter.

167. As a direct result of the conduct of all Defendants, Plaintiff lost her son. She has suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses, and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training and support.

168. As a result of the above-described acts, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing their daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; have sustained loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

**Count 8: VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. 1983**  
**(Cedar County Sheriff's Department, James McCrary, Robert Graves and Julio Sandoval)**

169. Plaintiff hereby incorporates Paragraphs 1-82 as if fully set forth herein.

170. Jason Britt was deprived of rights secured by the United States constitution and the laws of the United States.

171. Those deprivations were committed by the Cedar County Sheriff's department, Sheriff James McClary, Robert Graves, Julio Sandoval and others acting on behalf of the Cedar County Sheriff's Department.

172. While acting as an employee of Cedar County Sheriff's Department, the defendants Sandoval and Graves engaged in sexual assault of Jason Britt.

173. At all times, the Cedar County Sheriff's Department had information and reports from children who were residing at Agape that they had been and / or were being abused by school officials.

174. With conscious disregard, the Sheriff's Department ignored those reports, branded the children as liars or other dismissive appellations and returned children to Agape without investigation, reporting or warning to parents or the Children's Division regarding these allegations.

175. The Sheriff's Department and its employees acted with conscious disregard of the rights of those who resided at Agape.

176. Defendants' actions as heretofore set forth constitute willful, wanton, or reckless conduct. Said willful, wanton and/or reckless conduct constitutes aggravating circumstances justifying punitive damages in this matter.

177. As a direct result of the conduct of all Defendants, Plaintiff lost her son. She has suffered pecuniary losses by reason of his death including but not limited to funeral expenses and the reasonable value of his services, consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training and support.

178. As a result of the above-described acts, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life; were prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing their daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; have sustained loss of earnings and earning capacity; and/or have incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

**COUNT 9: LOST CHANCE OF SURVIVAL**  
**(All Defendants)**

179. Plaintiff Estate of Jason Britt repeats and realleges each and every allegations set forth in the petition as if set forth fully herein, except as to causation leading to wrongful death.

180. Because of the acts of the Defendants as set forth in each of the paragraphs and causes of action above, Jason Britt, decedent, lost a significant of chance of survival.

181. As a direct result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, plaintiff Jason Britt suffered and great pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation, and loss of enjoyment of life; was prevented and will continue to be prevented from performing their daily activities and obtaining the full enjoyment of life; and/or has incurred and will continue to incur expenses for medical and psychological treatment, therapy, and counseling.

**COUNT 10: Claims for Relief by Kathleen Britt**  
**(All Defendants)**

182. The plaintiffs adopt all prior paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth under this count.



183. Agape's actions – whether intentional or negligent, as alleged above – caused or contributed to cause the death of Jason Britt.

184. Because of the death of Jason Britt, caused by the acts of Agape, Kathleen Britt has suffered--and will continue to suffer--losses and damages, including but not limited to: funeral expenses, the reasonable value of Jason Britt's services, and the loss of Jason Britt's consortium, companionship, comfort, instruction, guidance, counsel, training, and support.

185. Kathleen Britt has suffered all damages cognizable and recoverable under RSMo § 537.090.

186. Agape engaged in fraud and misrepresentation of material facts as set forth in Paragraphs 1-82 as well as Count 7. In reliance on those representations which were known by Agape to be false at the time of making, Plaintiff Kathleen Britt expended sums of money to place her son at that school and for which Plaintiff Kathleen Britt is entitled to compensation.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues triable in this case.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs asks that this Court award judgment against Defendants as follows:

1. Awarding compensatory, statutory, punitive and treble damages in favor of Plaintiffs against Defendants for damages sustained as a result of the wrongdoings of Defendants, together with interest thereon;

2. Awarding Plaintiffs his costs and expenses incurred in this action, including reasonable allowance of fees for Plaintiffs' attorneys, experts, and reimbursement of Plaintiffs' and counsel's expenses;

3. Granting such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate and just.

Respectfully Submitted,

**RANGLES, MATA LLC.**

**/S/ Rebecca M. Randles**

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