

The ACLU of Georgia has filed a federal lawsuit against Pike County judges and DFACS officials who targeted a local critic with an “Order of Arrest” for his website. The lawsuit is filed on behalf of Stephen Johnson, whose website (<http://www.angelfire.com/ga4/justice/>) seeks to “reduce and eliminate the child abuse caused by the very system instituted to protect [kids] ... the injustice in family and juvenile courts, [and] other family destroying systems.”

However, Johnson’s website drew the ire of the very local officials who were criticized on his website. The officials first threatened Johnson with a lawsuit, and then obtained court order that “COMMANDED [the] arrest [of] the body of Johnson, Stephen Lee” and subjected Johnson to “a JUDGE OF THIS COURT to be dealt with as the law directs. Herein fail not.” The only reason given for the arrest was an unproven claim that the website was “false and malicious.”

“You just can’t have someone arrested because you don’t like their website,” said Gerry Weber, Legal Director of the Georgia ACLU. “Threatening someone into silence is what the courts call an ‘unconstitutional prior restraint.’”

Johnson quote??

The ACLU has requested a swift ruling in the case, and has asked a federal judge to find that the “Order of Arrest” violates Mr. Johnson’s free speech rights.