

COOK COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
69 West Washington Street, Suite 3040
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Andrew OLIVER, Complainant)	
)	
)	Case No. 2015E009
v.)	
)	
RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK,)	Entered: July 7, 2015
Respondents)	
)	
)	

ORDER EXTENDING TIME

On May 28, 2015, Complainant Andrew Oliver (“Oliver”) filed the above-captioned complaint with the Cook County Commission on Human Rights (“Commission”), alleging that Respondent Reconciling Ministries Network (“RMN”) retaliated against him for reporting gender identity discrimination. In accordance with the Commission’s Procedural Rules 120.110 and 420.130, the Commission mailed this complaint to RMN on June 1, 2015. Accordingly, RMN’s verified response was due to be filed with the Commission on July 6, 2015. *See* CCHR Pro. R. 420.165. Instead, RMN filed an unopposed motion to extend its time to file a response (or otherwise plead) to August 10, 2015.

The Commission prefers to resolve complaints on their merits. In order to do so, the Commission relies on a respondent’s verified response, position statement and answers to questionnaires to assist in its neutral fact finding investigation. Therefore, when a respondent in good faith requests an extension and proffers good cause, the Commission has been inclined to liberally grant such a request. However, when delay and disregard for Commission process and procedure are evident, as a last resort, due to the punitive nature of the default sanction, the Commission will commence default proceedings against a dilatory respondent. *Arnett v. Cezar’s Inn*, 2003PA005 (CCHRC June 20, 2003).

RMN’s motion, in pertinent part, states that respondent and complainant have been diligently seeking to resolve the pending matter and respondent believes an extension of time will help to further negotiations. Additionally, RMN indicates that an extension of time will preserve the Commission’s investigative and adjudicative resources should the parties reach an agreement. Lastly, RMN indicates that Oliver’s counsel does not oppose the requested extension. The Commission finds that RMN has requested this extension in good faith and proffered good cause. For these reasons, the Commission hereby grants RMN’s Motion.

The Commission orders RMN to file its verified response to Oliver’s complaint or otherwise plead on or before August 10, 2015. Failure to do so may result in the commencement of default proceedings. *See* CCHR Pro. R. 420.165.

July 7, 2015

By delegation:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ranjit Hakim', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ranjit Hakim
Executive Director of the Cook County
Commission on Human Rights