

April 1, 2022

Angela Ciccolo, Esq.
Chief Legal Officer
Special Olympics
1133 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-3604 USA

Brian Richter
Assistant Vice President
Community Partnerships
Special Olympics
1133 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-3604 USA

cc: DOJ, CAL-DOJ, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, NBC and ABC Investigative Desks

Re: Notice of Discrimination in Violation of State & Federal Disability Statutes, Breach of Contract, False Advertising, and Other Claims Involving Disabled Minor Child

VIA U.S. MAIL (CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT), E-MAIL & FACSIMILE (202) 824-0200

To whom it concerns:

You do not know me: I am a veteran litigator who practiced at white shoe law firms in California representing Fortune 500 companies for the better part of my almost three-decade legal career, and who now liaises with federal and foreign law enforcement agencies and assets to combat the child brothel industry in SE Asia, while also working stateside on the professional speaking circuit to combat human slavery as well as helping refine and craft federal legislation – after my appointment by the 2013 head of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Ed Royce, to the Congressional Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking.

While not counsel for the family or child discussed herein, I would be remiss in not bringing to your attention a matter I was recently apprised of which involves quite egregious, repeated violations of state and federal laws concerning a sixteen year old largely non-verbal disabled child named Rio Lance, and your entity's decision to discriminate against this child by refusing to allow him to participate in this year's USA Games Special Olympics (hereafter, "Special Olympics").

For context, your entity went trawling for participants in this year's Special Olympics through written brochures and other materials it sent out to the masses. In soliciting such participation, the Special Olympics made specific legally-binding representations, on which representations Rio Lance and his family relied (along with others, I've no doubt).

Specifically, the Special Olympics stated that while would-be participants would need to fill out a form concerning COVID, such individuals' vaccine status would NOT be held against said participants. Below, I quote from your binding legal documents, in which your entity not once but twice literally underscored this point – first by putting the relevant language in italics, and

second by choosing to capitalize the word “NOT” in the below sentence – and indicated that vaccine status would be **irrelevant** to eligibility to participate:

*In addition to the medical form, all delegates must also complete a supplemental form related to COVID. This form will ask whether a delegate has had COVID, been cleared for sport participation, and if they have had a COVID vaccine. The information is for planning purposes only and will **NOT** be used to determine eligibility for participation.*

Special Olympics 2022 Participation Contract (emphasis in ORIGINAL).

After your entity’s decision to move forward with the Special Olympics this year and solicit participation specifically on the promise that vaccine status would be irrelevant to eligibility, the sixteen-year old boy in question – who is virtually non-verbal and very affected by his disability – became excited when he learned of this opportunity through his father. For his part, the father of the child, Christopher Lance, relied on the USA Games Special Olympics’ written contractual promises and representations that COVID vaccine status would NOT be relevant to the child’s eligibility/participation decisions – before alerting his child to this opportunity, and before allowing his child to set his heart on this project, train for it, and become quite excited about participating in the Olympics in Florida. Rio was nominated and officially accepted in September of 2021 as one of the athletes to represent Southern California in the USA Games Special Olympics Track and Field, held from June 5th – 12th, 2022 in Orlando, Florida – and has been training since that date – logging daily steps on his “fit bit” anywhere from 4,000 to as many as 24,000 steps a day.

Inconceivably and quite unfortunately – not to mention unlawfully – your organization reversed course mere weeks before the event, first attempting to require an exemption to the vaccine – which was not part of the original offer for participation and could not thus legally have even been *solicited*. And second, by then *denying* a legitimately-proffered exemption... from a child whose disability was caused by a vaccine, and who would likely be thus further harmed – potentially fatally – by your entity’s attempt to illegally mandate a still-experimental COVID vaccine that could not pass animal testing trials without causing the death of most if not all of the animals tested. I quote the unlawful denial of participation language from your ill-advised emails to Christopher and Rio Lance, below:

Upon review of your request for an exemption from the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games vaccine requirement, we are writing to inform you that your request has been declined.

March 16, 2022 Email to Lance Family by USA Games Special Olympics.

We have been notified by the USA Games Committee that your request for exemption(s) has been declined. With that, we are unfortunately writing to inform you that Rio will be officially removed from the Team Southern California list of participants by Friday 25 March 2022, unless we here (sic) otherwise from the USA Games Committee.

March 23, 2022 Email to Lance Family by Assistant Vice President of Community Partnerships, Mr. Brian Richter, on behalf of USA Games Special Olympics.

As an entity whose mission is to elevate the rights and successes of disabled people without causing unnecessary harm or risk to them, your entity's decision to violate multiple laws and break its contract with the Lance family is both ironic and unconscionable.¹ In my humble estimation, ANY entity trampling the rights of disabled people is engaged in atrocious conduct. But to have an entity which allegedly exists in part to PROTECT the rights and opportunities and wins of disabled persons instead choose to ILLEGALLY DISCRIMINATE against a disabled person – a child no less, whose heart was set on participating after YOUR documents said he could – is simply obscene.

Let me explain what will happen henceforth. Your entity will consult outside legal counsel, which will no doubt explain the basic legal precepts. Like promissory estoppel and contract law – which prohibit your entity from changing the terms of an offer/contract once it was accepted on the terms of the deal originally proffered and relied upon. And like the Emergency Use Authorization Act, which prohibits the mandating of medical protocols while they are still in the experimental phase, as COVID-19 vaccines are here (since Comirnaty is the only vaccine approved – and it is still not available in the United States). And like a host of federal and California state disability statutes not to mention false advertising statutes – which prohibit USA Games Special Olympics Committees from hypocritically discriminating against the very people the Special Olympics was designed to protect – and which discrimination is redressed through myriad federal and state laws by way of monetary and injunctive relief, in order to deter such abhorrent conduct and compensate victims of it.

While I'm not counsel for this family nor your counsel, in my humble opinion USA Games Special Olympics would be well advised to immediately correct course, and give Rio Lance the right to participate in the games in Florida that was offered to him regardless of vaccine status, which offer of participation and eligibility your entity *chose* to make and is thus prohibited from changing after such offer was accepted, and which course of action was obviously intentional given your entity's decision to double emphasize in capitalized font and italics the fact that Special Olympics participation was NOT dependent on vaccine status.

USA Games Special Olympics has until 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2022, to respond in writing (or by email to ChristopherLancelotLance@gmail.com) to Christopher Lance and confirm his son's ability to participate in Florida.

Sincerely,



Leigh Taylor Dundas, Esq.
President, Freedom Fighter Nation