



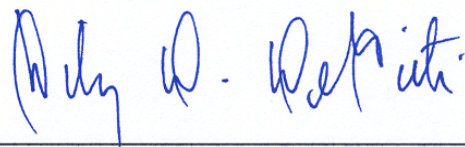
the common witnesses to be deposed. The parties also state that consolidation “will permit sequenced completion of cooperative document production and e-discovery (including emails) in a manner consistent with Sedona Conference principles.” Again, the parties do not elaborate.

The Court has reviewed the Amended Complaints in each of the actions. The Court has also reviewed recent orders entered in this case and Case No. CIV-13-881-W, granting, in part, Defendants’ motions to dismiss. In addition, the Court notes that a Scheduling Order has been entered in Case No. CIV-13-777-HE, while no similar orders have been entered in the other two actions. Although the claims at issue in the respective actions involve similar occurrences of alleged retaliatory employment actions, the respective actions involve different personnel employed by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and different factual circumstances. And, as noted, the cases are currently in different procedural stages from one another.

Primarily, the parties cite as grounds for consolidation the ability to prevent duplicative depositions, without any specific information as to the number of witnesses who would overlap in the respective cases. The parties can agree among themselves to proceed in cooperative fashion regarding depositions and avoiding duplicative efforts without the need for consolidation of this action. Although the Court values the goals to be achieved through consolidation as sated by the parties, based on the cursory grounds upon which consolidation is sought, the Court finds the parties request should be DENIED at this time.

This Order shall be filed in Case Nos. CIV-13-676-D, CIV-13-777-HE, and CIV-13-881-W.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.



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TIMOTHY D. DEGIUSTI  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE