

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA**

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Paul Dorr, and Alexander Dorr, individually  
and on behalf of all other persons similarly  
situated,

Court File No. 5:08-CV-04093

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Douglas L. Weber, individually and in his  
capacity as Sheriff, and his successors, the  
Osceola County Sheriffs Department, Iowa,  
and Osceola County, Iowa,

Defendants.

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**CLASS ACTION  
COMPLAINT**

**Jury Trial Demanded**

**MOHRMAN & KAARDAL, P.A.**  
Vincent J. Fahnlander  
Erick G. Kaardal  
33 South Sixth Street, Suite 4100  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402  
Telephone: 612-341-1074

**Attorneys for Plaintiff Paul Dorr**

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## INTRODUCTION

This is an action for declaratory judgment and damages for the violation of constitutional rights governing due process, equal protection, and the right to keep and bear arms against Sheriff Weber, an enforcement officer with the Osceola County, Iowa Sheriff's Department, the Osceola Sheriff's Department, and Osceola County. Mr. Dorr sought nonprofessional permits to carry a weapon. Although he met all the statutory criteria necessary for the issuance of the permit Sheriff Weber refused to issue the permits

The permit requests were denied without justification. Sheriff Weber, the Osceola Sheriff's Department and Osceola County acted illegally in denying Dorr his permits to carry a weapon, meaning that the decisions were unreasonable, not authorized, and contrary to the terms, spirit, and purpose of the statute creating and defining nonprofessional permits for citizens to carry a weapon under Iowa law. Thus, the Sheriff, the Department, and the County violated Mr. Dorr's constitutional rights under the Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

## JURISDICTION

This action is brought under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983, and § 1988, (civil rights statutes), 28 U.S.C. § 2201 (declaratory judgment), and the Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution. Jurisdiction is founded on 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and 1343 (1)-(4) and the statutory and constitutional provisions mentioned. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391. Plaintiff Paul Dorr further invokes the pendent jurisdiction of this Court to consider claims arising under state law.

## **PARTIES**

### **Plaintiffs**

1. Plaintiff Paul Dorr is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Iowa, Osceola County. His address is 579 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ocheyedan, Iowa, 51354.

2. Plaintiff Alexander Dorr is a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Iowa, Osceola County. His address is 579 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ocheyedan, Iowa, 51354.

### **Defendants**

3. Defendant Douglas L. Weber is a law enforcement officer with the Osceola County, Iowa Sheriff's Department. At all times as stated within this complaint, Sheriff Weber acted in the capacity of agent, servant, and employee of the Osceola Sheriff's Department, and Osceola County. Sheriff Weber's office address is 309 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Sibley, Iowa, 51249.

4. Defendant Osceola Sheriff's Department is a law enforcement agency responsible for the issuance of nonprofessional permits to carry a weapon. The Department policies govern the actions of Sheriff Douglas Weber in the determination of granting or denying nonprofessional permits to carry a weapon. The Department's address is 309 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Sibley, Iowa, 51249.

5. Defendant Osceola County is a governmental entity within the State of Iowa, and at all times as stated within this complaint, employs Douglas Weber as a law enforcement officer. Osceola County is responsible for the implementation of state statutes, in particular policies governing the grant or denial of nonprofessional permits to carry a weapon. The address for Osceola County is 300 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Courthouse, Sibley, Iowa, 51249.

6. At all times relevant to the allegations of this complaint, and in all actions described, the defendants acted under color of state law.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AND CODE PROVISIONS AT ISSUE**

### **Second Amendment**

7. The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states "... the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

8. The Second Amendment confers to an individual the right to keep and bear arms.

### **Fourteenth Amendment**

9. The Fourteenth Amendment, Section 1 of the United States Constitution states "...nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

10. The Fourteenth Amendment confers to an individual the right to due process under the law and to equal protection under the laws.

### **Iowa Codes**

11. The Iowa Code section 724.7 provides for the issuance of permits to carry weapons within Iowa.

Iowa Code section 724.7 states:

Any person who can reasonably justify going armed may be issued a nonprofessional permit to carry weapons. Such permits shall be on a form prescribed and published by the commissioner of public safety, which shall be readily distinguishable from the professional permit, and shall identify the holder thereof, and state the reason for the issuance of the permit, and the limits of the authority granted by such permit. All permits so issued shall be

for a definite period as established by the issuing officer, but in no event shall exceed a period of twelve months.

12. The Iowa Code section 724.8 establishes the criteria for eligibility for a nonprofessional permit to carry weapons:

No person shall be issued a professional or nonprofessional permit to carry weapons unless:

1. The person is eighteen years of age or older.
2. The person has never been convicted of a felony.
3. The person is not addicted to the use of alcohol or any controlled substances.
4. The person has no history of repeated acts of violence.
5. The issuing officer reasonably determines that the applicant does not constitute a danger to any person.
6. The person has never been convicted of any crime defined in chapter 708, except "assault" as defined in section 708.1 and "harassment" as defined in section 708.7.

### CLASS ALLEGATIONS

13. Under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs Paul Dorr and Alexander Dorr bring this action on their own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated.

14. The class the Dorrs represent is composed of all individuals who have or will apply for a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon under Iowa Code § 724.8, specifically those who have been denied a permit under Iowa Code § 724.8 (5).

15. It is the Dorrs' belief that Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) is unconstitutional on its face and as applied infringing upon the rights of all citizens as embodied under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution protecting the right to keep and bear arms, and under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, protecting the

right to due process and to equal protection under the laws regardless of whether an individual has been granted or denied a permit.

16. It is the Dorrs' belief that Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) is unconstitutional facially and as applied when this provision is invoked to deny a person a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon thus infringing upon the rights of all citizens as embodied under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution protecting the right to keep and bear arms, and under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution protecting the right to due process and to equal protection under the laws.

17. The Dorrs based on information and belief allege the Plaintiff Class numbers are in excess of hundreds of persons and is so numerous joinder of all members would be impracticable. The size of the class and the identity of the class members are ascertainable through among other methods, the agencies and authorities responsible for granting or denying nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

18. Questions of law and fact common to the Plaintiff Class exist that predominate over questions affecting only individual members.

19. The claims asserted by the Dorrs in this action are typical of the claims of the members of the Plaintiff Class, the claims arising from the same course of conduct by the Defendants, and the relief sought is common.

20. The Dorrs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Plaintiff Class. The Dorrs have retained competent and experienced counsel in both constitutional and class action litigation.

21. A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Because the relief sought is in the form of declaratory relief to redress and prevent constitutional wrongs affecting all members of the class, it would be impracticable for each member to individually seek redress for the wrongful conduct alleged in this complaint. There will be no undue difficulty in the management of this litigation as a class action.

### FACTS

**Paul Dorr is engaged in controversial public issues in Iowa exposing him to threats against him for holding or supporting certain views and opinions.**

22. Paul Dorr (“Dorr”) is a citizen residing in Osceola County, Iowa.

23. Dorr is a community activist engaged in public discourse regarding issues some citizens would characterize as controversial.

24. Dorr also owns and operates a consulting business, Copperhead Consulting Services, that engages in activities to support other individuals, groups, associations, and other entities regarding but not exclusively, in political and election campaigns regarding controversial issues including but not limited to political, economic, or social issues.

25. Some of the public issues citizens may consider controversial include anti-abortion issues; school or government bond and ballot questions; the war on terrorism; and taxes.

26. Dorr also participates in presidential campaign contribution collections, requiring the transportation of money from one location to another, such as a bank.

27. Dorr, in his capacity as an individual or through his consulting business, has participated in public debates and meetings where citizens have threatened him with physical harm.

28. Dorr has observed at least one website blog which made reference to "shooting Paul Dorr."

29. Dorr provided to Sheriff Weber a copy of the observed website blog which made reference to "shooting Paul Dorr."

**Since 2001 the Sheriff's Department issued Dorr a permit to carry a weapon, but denied his permit application in 2007.**

30. From 2001 to 2006, Paul Dorr had a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

31. As required under Iowa law, Dorr renewed his permit each year since 2001.

32. Each year, Dorr made his application with the Osceola County Sheriff's Department.

33. In 2007, Dorr sought to renew his nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon with the Osceola County Sheriff's Department.

34. Sheriff Weber denied Dorr his permit.

**Sheriff had no factual or reasonable rationale to deny Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2007.**

35. On August 9, 2007 Paul Dorr met with Sheriff Douglas Weber at the same time as his denial to Dorr of his application for a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

36. During the Dorr's discussion with Sheriff Weber on August 9, 2007, Weber stated he had a problem with Dorr's application for a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

37. Sheriff Weber stated that he had "heard different things from some of the citizens and there's some fear out there of [Dorr]."

38. Sheriff Weber could not provide Dorr with any specific allegations from citizens that substantiated a sense of "fear" as Weber described.

39. Sheriff Weber provided no documentation to support his statement to Dorr regarding hearing from citizens that "there's some fear out there of [Dorr]".

40. Sheriff Weber provided no documentation reflecting any interview of any citizen he claimed made an allegation of "fearfulness" of Dorr.

41. Sheriff Weber provided no documentation that he conducted an investigation of any kind of an allegation asserted by any citizen whom made an allegation he or she feared Dorr.

42. Sheriff Weber stated to Dorr that he did not "feel comfortable issuing the permit" and did not "trust him."

**Debra Dorr is granted a permit in 2008.**

43. Dorr's wife, Debra Dorr, applied for a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2008.

44. Sheriff Weber granted Debra Dorr her a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

**Paul Dorr sought a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2008 but is denied the permit.**

45. Paul Dorr sought a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2008.
46. Sheriff Weber denied Dorr's requested permit.
47. Sheriff Weber did not provide a reason for Dorr's denial for a permit and "would deny any new application from [him]."

**Dorr personally and through his consulting business engaged in political challenges with the Osceola County Sheriff's Department and the County Attorney's Office.**

48. Paul Dorr's consulting business engaged in political challenges with the Osceola County Sheriff's Department and the Osceola County Attorney's Office.
49. In 2006 and 2007, one of Dorr's consulting business clients challenged the Osceola County Sheriff's Department budget. The issue was considered a controversial political issue.
50. In 2006 and 2007, Dorr challenged the Osceola County Attorney's budget.
51. Osceola County has a population of approximately 6,500, the sixth smallest of 99 counties in Iowa.
52. Although the Osceola County attorney's office is also responsible for an area slightly larger than Osceola, the County Attorney is the fourth highest paid in the entire state of Iowa.
53. The amount paid to the County Attorney is controversial, particularly since Dorr has raised this political issue as a waste of taxpayer's money.

**Alexander Dorr sought a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2008 but is denied the permit.**

54. Alexander Dorr sought a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2008.

55. Sheriff Weber denied Alexander Dorr's requested permit.

56. Sheriff Weber did not provide Alexander Dorr a reason for the denial of the requested permit.

57. Sheriff Weber stated he would "consider a new application from [Alexander Dorr] after his twenty-first birthday."

**COUNT I**

**Against Sheriff Weber**

**Sheriff Weber's denial to grant the Dorr's a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon is a violation of due process.**

**(Violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution)**

**Sheriff Weber cannot provide Paul Dorr with documentation or other information to substantiate claims that citizens are fearful of Dorr.**

58. Paragraphs 1 through 57 are incorporated as if fully restated.

59. The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution confers to a person the right to keep and bear arms.

60. The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution protects an individual's right to due process.

61. In August 2007, Sheriff Weber could not provide Paul Dorr with any specific allegations from citizens that they "feared" Dorr.

62. In August 2007, Sheriff Weber provided Dorr no documentation to support any allegation that substantiated a claimed allegation that citizens “feared” Dorr.

63. Sheriff Weber did not provide to Dorr supporting documentation or other information to suggest he interviewed any person or obtained any witness statement, recording, other communication, or documentation to substantiate that citizens “feared” Dorr.

64. Sheriff Weber stated to Dorr that he did not “feel comfortable issuing the permit” and did not “trust him.”

**Dorr met all criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8 to be granted a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.**

65. Under Iowa Code § 724.7 when an individual justifies the need to be armed a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon to be issued.

66. Iowa Code §724.8 establishes the criteria to identify a person eligible for a nonprofessional permit to carry weapons.

67. Under Iowa Code § 724.8, a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon cannot be issued unless all established six criteria are met.

68. If an individual meets all of the criteria established under Iowa Code § 724.8 that person is entitled to a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

69. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (1) Dorr is over eighteen years of age.

70. In 2007 and 2008, Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8 (1).

71. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (2) Dorr has never been convicted of a felony.

72. In 2007 and 2008, Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8(2).

73. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (3) Dorr is not addicted to the use of alcohol or any controlled substance.

74. In 2007 and 2008, Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8(3).

75. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (4) Dorr has no history of repeated acts of violence.

76. In 2007 and 2008, Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8(4).

77. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) the issuing officer has made no reasonable determination that Dorr constitutes a danger to any person.

78. In 2007 and 2008 Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8(5).

79. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (6) Dorr has never been convicted of any crime defined in Iowa chapter 708.

80. In 2007 and 2008 Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8 (6).

**Dorr's engagement in controversial political issues  
and threats made against him substantiated a need  
for a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.**

81. Sheriff Weber knew that Dorr engages in controversial political issues, including but not limited to public discourse, advertising, petitioning, attending public debates and meetings, and advocating particular viewpoints in opposition to other citizen views or beliefs.

82. Sheriff Weber knew that some citizens have opposing views to those of Dorr.

83. Sheriff Weber knew that Dorr has a consulting business that involves working with citizens involved in controversial political issues.

84. Sheriff Weber knew that some citizens oppose Dorr's advocacy of issues through his consulting business.

**Sheriff Weber gave no reason to deny Dorr a permit in 2007 and 2008.**

85. In 2007 Sheriff Weber stated that he did not “feel comfortable issuing the permit” to Dorr.

86. Sheriff Weber in 2007 and 2008 denied Dorr a permit for a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

87. Sheriff Weber in 2007 and 2008 could not articulate a reason to substantiate a “reasonable determination” to deny Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

88. Sheriff Weber in 2007 and 2008 did not articulate a reason to substantiate a “reasonable determination” to deny Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

**Sheriff Weber denied Alexander Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon and declared consideration of a new application only after his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.**

89. Alexander Dorr sought a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2008 but Sheriff Weber denied the requested permit.

90. Sheriff Weber did not provide Alexander Dorr a reason for the denial of the requested permit.

91. Sheriff Weber stated he would “consider a new application from [Alexander Dorr] after his twenty-first birthday.”

**Alexander Dorr met all criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8 to be granted a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.**

92. Under Iowa Code § 724.7 when an individual justifies the need to be armed a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon is issued.

93. Iowa Code §724.8 establishes the criteria to identify a person eligible for a nonprofessional permit to carry weapons.

94. Under Iowa Code § 724.8, a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon cannot be issued unless all established six criteria are met.

95. If an individual meets all of the criteria established under Iowa Code § 724.8 that person is entitled to a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

96. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (1) Alexander Dorr is over eighteen years of age.

97. In 2008 Alexander Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8 (1).

98. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (2) Alexander Dorr has never been convicted of a felony.

99. In 2008 Alexander Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8(2).

100. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (3) Alexander Dorr is not addicted to the use of alcohol or any controlled substance.

101. In 2008 Alexander Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8(3).

102. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (4) Alexander Dorr has no history of repeated acts of violence.

103. In 2008 Alexander Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8(4).

104. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) the issuing officer has made no reasonable determination that Alexander Dorr constitutes a danger to any person.

105. In 2008 Alexander Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8(5).

106. Under Iowa Code § 724.8 (6) Alexander Dorr has never been convicted of any crime defined in Iowa chapter 708.

107. In 2008 Alexander Dorr met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8 (6).

**Sheriff Weber acted illegally and denied the Dorrs due process  
and in so doing violated their right to keep and bear arms.**

108. Sheriff Weber's denial to grant the Dorrs a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon is an illegal act.

109. Sheriff Weber's decisions against the Dorrs were arbitrary and unreasonable, not authorized by, contrary to the terms, and spirit, and purpose of Iowa Code § 724.8, unsupported by the facts on which the Sheriff's power to act depends, or within which the power must be exercised.

110. Sheriff Weber's decisions to deny the Dorrs a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon without a "reasonable determination" violated the Dorrs' constitutional right to due process under the law as protected under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

111. Sheriff Weber's decisions to deny the Dorrs a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon without a "reasonable determination" violated the Dorrs' constitutional right to keep and bear arms as protected under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

112. As a result of Sheriff Weber's action, the Dorrs have suffered damages and this Court should grant all relief entitled to them under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

## COUNT II

### Against Osceola County

#### (Violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution)

#### Infringement of the Dorrs' right to due process and to keep and bear arms.

113. Paragraphs 1 through 112 are incorporated as if fully restated.

114. Sheriff Weber, acting as an agent and on behalf of the defendant Osceola County, within his scope of his employment, did violate the Dorrs right to due process under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States.

115. Sheriff Weber, acting as an agent and on behalf of the defendant Osceola County, within his scope of his employment, did violate the Dorrs right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment of the United States.

116. Osceola County is responsible for the actions of Sheriff Weber as an employee and agent of the Osceola County designated Sheriff Weber as the issuing officer to grant or deny nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

117. Osceola County denied the Dorrs due process of law when the Dorrs were denied a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon under Iowa Code § 724.8 in 2007, for Paul Dorr, and 2008 for both Dorrs, as a result of the policies of the Osceola County Sheriff's Department as applied to the Dorrs.

118. Policies implemented through the Osceola County Sheriff's Department is reflective of Osceola County policies regarding granting or denying nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

119. The policies of Osceola County are executed through the Sheriff's Department and through Sheriff Weber on behalf of Osceola County regarding the granting or denial of nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

120. As a result of Osceola County actions, the Dorrs have suffered damages as a result the infringement of their constitutional rights under the Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution, this Court should grant all relief entitled to them under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

### **COUNT III**

#### **Against Osceola County Sheriff's Department**

#### **(Violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution)**

#### **Infringement of the Dorrs' right to due process and to keep and bear arms.**

121. Paragraphs 1 through 120 are incorporated as if fully restated.

122. Sheriff Weber, acting as an agent and on behalf of the defendant Osceola Sheriff's Department, within his scope of his employment, did execute policies regarding the granting or denial of nonprofessional permits to carry weapons on behalf of the County for the Department as the issuing officer of such permits.

123. Osceola County designated the Osceola County Sheriff's Department to execute County policies regarding the granting or denial of nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

124. Osceola County designated Sheriff Weber as the issuing officer to grant or deny nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

125. The Dorrs were denied a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon under Iowa Code § 724.8 in 2007, as to Paul Dorr, and in 2008 for both Dorrs, as a result of the policies of the Osceola County Sheriff's Department as applied to the Dorrs.

126. The Osceola County Sheriff's Department denied the Dorrs due process of law.

127. The Osceola County Sheriff's Department denied the Dorrs the right to keep and bear arms.

128. Policies implemented through the Osceola County Sheriff's Department is reflective of Osceola County policies regarding granting or denying nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

129. The policies of the Sheriff's Department are executed through Sheriff Weber on behalf of Osceola County regarding the granting or denial of nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

130. As a result of the Osceola Sheriff's Department's actions violating the Dorrs' right to due process and to keep and bear arms under the Fourteenth and Second Amendments of the United States Constitution, they have suffered damages and this Court should grant all relief entitled to them under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

**COUNT IV**

**Against Sheriff Weber**

**Sheriff Weber's denials to grant Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon violated his right to equal protection**

**(Violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution)**

**Sheriff Weber granted a nonprofessional permit to carry weapons to individuals including Paul Dorr's wife Debra Dorr.**

131. Paragraphs 1 through 130 are incorporated as if fully restated.

132. Sheriff Weber is an issuing officer in Osceola County for denying or granting nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

133. Sheriff Weber does grant nonprofessional permits to carry weapons to persons if they meet the criteria established under Iowa Code § 724.8.

134. Sheriff Weber did grant to persons nonprofessional permits to carry weapons in 2007.

135. Sheriff Weber did grant to persons nonprofessional permits to carry weapons in 2008.

136. From 2001-2006, Osceola County and the Osceola Sheriff's Department through Sheriff Weber and his predecessor, did grant Paul Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry weapons on a yearly basis because he met the criteria under Iowa Code § 724.8.

137. Debra Dorr, wife of Paul Dorr, did meet the criteria established under Iowa Code § 724.8.

138. Sheriff Weber granted to Debra Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2008.

**Sheriff Weber gave no reason to deny Paul Dorr a permit to carry a weapon in 2007 and 2008.**

139. In 2007 Sheriff Weber stated that he did not “feel comfortable issuing the permit” to Paul Dorr and denied him the requested nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

140. Sheriff Weber in 2008 again, denied Dorr a permit for a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

141. Sheriff Weber in 2007 and 2008 did not provide a “reasonable determination” articulated as a reason to deny Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

**Sheriff Weber gave no reason to deny Alexander Dorr a permit to carry a weapon in 2008.**

142. Sheriff Weber in 2008 denied Alexander Dorr a permit for a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

143. Sheriff Weber stated he would “consider a new application from [Alexander Dorr] after his twenty-first birthday.”

144. Sheriff Weber in 2008 did not provide a “reasonable determination” articulated as a reason to deny Alexander Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

**Sheriff Weber acted illegally and denied the Dorrs equal protection under the law.**

145. Sheriff Weber’s denial to grant the Dorrs a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon is an illegal act.

146. Sheriff Weber’s decisions against the Dorrs were arbitrary and unreasonable, not authorized by, contrary to the terms, and spirit, and purpose of Iowa Code § 724.8,

unsupported by the facts on which the Sheriff's power to act depends, or within which the power must be exercised.

147. Sheriff Weber's decisions to deny the Dorrs a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon while granting a permit to others who also meet the criteria established under Iowa Code § 724.8 is unequal treatment under the law.

148. Sheriff Weber's decisions to deny the Dorrs a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon while granting a permit to others who also meet the criteria established under Iowa Code § 724.8 are violations of the Dorrs' constitutional right to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

149. Sheriff Weber's decisions to deny the Dorrs a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon while granting a permit to others who also meet the criteria established under Iowa Code § 724.8 are violations of the Dorrs' constitutional right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

150. As a result of Sheriff Weber's actions infringing upon the constitutional rights of the Dorrs under the Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution has resulted in the Dorrs suffering damages and this Court should grant all relief entitled to them under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

**COUNT V**

**Against Osceola County**

**(Violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendments  
of the United States Constitution)**

**Infringement of the Dorrs' right to equal protection under the law.**

151. Paragraphs 1 through 150 are incorporated as if fully restated.

152. The Dorrs were denied nonprofessional permits to carry weapons under Iowa Code § 724.8.

153. Sheriff Weber, acting as an agent and on behalf of the defendant Osceola County, within his scope of his employment, did violate the Dorrs' right to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States.

154. Osceola County designated Sheriff Weber as the issuing officer to grant or deny nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

155. Policies implemented through the Osceola County Sheriff's Department are reflective of Osceola County policies regarding granting or denying nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

156. The policies of Osceola County are executed through the Sheriff's Department and through Sheriff Weber on behalf of Osceola County regarding the granting or denial of nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

157. As a result of Osceola County actions the Dorrs have suffered damages due to the infringement of their Second and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the United States Constitution, and this Court should grant all relief entitled to him under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

**COUNT VI**

**Against Osceola County Sheriff's Department**

**(Violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendments  
of the United States Constitution)**

**Infringement of the Dorrs' right to equal protection under the law.**

158. Paragraphs 1 through 157 are incorporated as if fully restated.

159. The Dorrs were denied nonprofessional permits to carry weapons under Iowa Code § 724.8.

160. As Weber, acting as an agent and on behalf of the defendant Osceola Sheriff's Department, within his scope of his employment, did execute policies regarding the granting or denial of nonprofessional permits to carry weapons on behalf of the County for the Department as the issuing officer of such permits.

161. Osceola County designated the Osceola County Sheriff's Department to execute County policies regarding the granting or denial of nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

162. Osceola County designated Sheriff Weber as the issuing officer to grant or deny nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

163. Policies implemented through the Osceola County Sheriff's Department are reflective of Osceola County policies regarding granting or denying nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

164. The policies of the Sheriff's Department are executed through Sheriff Weber on behalf of Osceola County regarding the granting or denial of nonprofessional permits to carry weapons.

165. As a result of the Osceola Sheriff's Department's actions against the Dorrs infringing upon protected rights under the Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution, they have suffered damages and this Court should grant all relief entitled to them under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

## COUNT VII

**Declaratory Judgment invalidating Iowa Code provision as overly broad and vague governing determinations to a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.**

**Infringement of Second Amendment Right to Keep and Bear Arms**

**(Violation of the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution)**

166. Paragraphs 1 through 165 are incorporated as if fully restated.

167. Paul Dorr and Alexander Dorr applied for a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon under Iowa Code § 724.8.

168. Iowa Code § 724.8 identifies six criteria to allow the issuing of a nonprofessional permit to carry weapons.

169. The Dorrs met all the requirements under Iowa Code § 724.8.

170. Sheriff Weber denied Paul Dorr in 2007 and 2008 a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

171. Sheriff Weber denied Paul Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2007 and 2008 without providing a reason or provided documentation to support his reason for the denial.

172. Sheriff Weber denied Paul Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon under Iowa Code § 724.8 (5): “The issuing officer reasonably determines that the applicant does not constitute a danger to any person.”

173. Sheriff Weber’s denial of a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon under Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) meant Paul Dorr is a danger to a person or persons.

174. Sheriff Weber denied Alexander Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon in 2008.

175. Sheriff Weber stated he would “consider a new application from [Alexander Dorr] after his twenty-first birthday.”

176. Sheriff Weber in 2008 did not provide a “reasonable determination” articulated as a reason to deny Alexander Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon.

177. The Second Amendment confers an individual right to keep and bear arms.

178. Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) term “[t]he issuing officer reasonably determines that the applicant does not constitute a danger to any person” is unconstitutionally vague and overbroad.

179. There is a substantial controversy between the parties.

180. The parties have adverse legal interests concerning the implementation and execution of Iowa Code § 724.8 and the constitutional rights identified under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, namely due process of law and equal protection of the laws.

181. The parties have adverse legal interests concerning the implementation and execution of Iowa Code § 724.8 and the constitutional right identified under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, namely the right to keep and bear arms.

182. Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) is facially unconstitutional as overbroad because Iowa does not have a compelling state interest in penalizing a person's right to keep and bear arms through denials of permits when juxtaposed with the code's legitimate sweep as specifically delineated under Iowa Code § 724.8 (1)- (4) and (6).

183. Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) is unconstitutionally overbroad as applied because it is not narrowly tailored to meet a compelling state interest. Failing to incorporate an objective standard to avoid the ambiguity of subjective standards, in contrast to objective standards demonstrated in § 724.8 (1)- (4) and (6), a person will not know under what conduct he or she will be judged thereby threatening to inhibit the exercise of the constitutionally protected right to carry a weapon under Iowa Code § 724.8 as contemplated under the Second Amendment.

184. Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) is unconstitutionally vague. Iowa does not have a compelling state interest in penalizing a person's right to keep and bear arms through permit denials when the code is so ambiguous if fails to convey with certainty the code's intended sweep since it does not allow a person to understand the conduct on which he or she will be judged. The application of the § 724.8 (5) thereby threatens to inhibit the exercise of the constitutionally protected right to carry a weapon under Iowa Code § 724.8 as contemplated under the Second Amendment.

185. The Dorrs are entitled to a declaration finding Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) unconstitutional.

### **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

186. Paragraphs 1-185 are incorporated as if restated.

187. The Dorrs demand a jury trial on all allegations and claims asserted in this case.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff Paul Dorr respectfully prays for judgment and relief from this Court:

1. That this Court certify the class as described in this Complaint;
2. That Defendant Sheriff Douglas L. Weber, a Sheriff of the Osceola County Sheriff's Department, violated Paul Dorr's constitutional right to due process as protected under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
3. That Defendant Sheriff Douglas L. Weber, a Sheriff of the Osceola County Sheriff's Department, violated Paul Dorr's constitutional right to equal protection of the law as protected under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
4. That Defendant Sheriff Douglas L. Weber, a Sheriff of the Osceola County Sheriff's Department, denied Paul Dorr a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon thereby denying his Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms under Iowa Code § 724.8 as contemplated under the United States Constitution;

5. That the Defendant Osceola County violated Paul Dorr's constitutional right to due process as protected under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
6. That the Defendant Osceola County violated Paul Dorr's constitutional right to equal protection as protected under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
7. That the Defendant Osceola County violated Paul Dorr's Second Amendment right to bear arms as contemplated under the United States Constitution;
8. That Defendant Osceola Sheriff's Department violated Paul Dorr's constitutional right to due process as protected under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
9. That the Defendant Osceola Sheriff's Department violated Paul Dorr's constitutional right to equal protection as protected under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
10. That the Defendant Osceola Sheriff's Department violated Paul Dorr's Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms under Iowa Code § 724.8 as contemplated under the United States Constitution;
11. That this Court declares Iowa Code § 724.8 (5) unconstitutional under the United States Constitution;
12. That Dorr is entitled to a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon under Iowa Code § 724.8;

13. That this Court direct the Osceola County Sheriff's Department to immediately issue a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon to Paul Dorr;
14. That Plaintiff Paul Dorr is entitled to all attorney fees and costs under 23 U.S.C. §§ 1983, 1988, or any other statute allowed by law; and
15. For such other relief as this Court may deem just and equitable.

**MOHRMAN & KAARDAL, P.A.**

Dated: October 28, 2008

s/Vincent J. Fahlander  
Vincent J. Fahlander  
Erick G. Kaardal  
33 South Sixth Street, Suite 4100  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402  
Telephone: 612-341-1074  
Facsimile: 612-341-1076  
[Fahlander@mklaw.com](mailto:Fahlander@mklaw.com)  
[Kaardal@mklaw.com](mailto:Kaardal@mklaw.com)

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

<p><b>I. (a) PLAINTIFFS</b> Paul Dorr and Alexander Dorr</p> <p><b>(b)</b> County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff <u>Osceola, Iowa</u> (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)</p>	<p><b>DEFENDANTS</b> Douglas L. Weber, Osceola County Sheriff's Department and Osceola County, Iowa</p> <p>County of Residence of First Listed Defendant: <u>Osceola, Iowa</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)</p>
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<p><b>(c)</b> Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Vincent J. Fahndlander Erick G. Kaardal Mohrman &amp; Kaardal, P.A. 33 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 4100 Minneapolis, MN 55402 612-465-0924; 612-465-0927</p>	<p>Attorneys (If Known) Not Known</p>
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<p><b>II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION</b> (Place an "X" in One Box Only)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. U.S. Government Plaintiff</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. U.S. Government Defendant</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)</p>	<p><b>III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES</b> (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant) (For Diversity Cases Only)</p> <p>Citizen of This State <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place Of Business In This State <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 4</p> <p>Citizen of Another State <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5</p> <p>Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Foreign Nation <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 6</p>
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)				
<p><b>CONTRACT</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment &amp; Enforcement of Judgment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholder's Suits</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability</p>	<p><b>TORTS</b></p> <p><b>PERSONAL INJURY</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel &amp; Slander</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 330 federal Employees' Liability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury</p>	<p><b>PERSONAL INJURY</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury – Med. Malpractice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury – Product Liability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability</p> <p><b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability</p>	<p><b>FORFEITURE/PENALTY</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food &amp; Drug</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. &amp; Truck</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other</p>	<p><b>BANKRUPTCY</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157</p> <p><b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark</p>
<p><b>REAL PROPERTY</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property</p>	<p><b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights</p>	<p><b>PRISONER RIGHTS</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence</p> <p>Habeas Corpus:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 530 General</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus &amp; Other</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition</p>	<p><b>LABOR</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting &amp; Disclosure Act</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act</p>	<p><b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))</p> <p><b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609</p>
<p><b>OTHER STATUTES</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes</p>				

**ORIGIN** (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

Original Proceeding     2 Removed from State Court     3 Remanded from Appellate Court     4 Reinstated or Reopened     5 Transferred from another district (specify)     6 Multidistrict Litigation     7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

(Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write brief statement of cause)  
42 U.S.C. § 1783 and 28 U.S.C. § 2201

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION** (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)  
Infringement of right to keep and bear arms, due process, equal protection, constitutionality of state provision to issue gun permits

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**  CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23    **DEMAND \$** In excess of \$One Million    CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: **JURY DEMAND**  Yes  No

**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY** (See Instructions): JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ DOCKET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 10/28/2008    SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD: *Vincent J. Fahndlander*

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

RECEIPT# \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_ JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_