

To whom it may concern:

My name is Paul Talafuse and I am the former post 67 commander for the American Legion in Berthoud Colorado. From time to time we have allowed either veterans seeking to do court ordered community service or others where the community service directly benefits veterans to perform work hours at our post or in our service. This was never a problem until about a year ago. We had an elderly disabled veteran that required assistance. We agreed to allow a person who needed the service hours for Larimer County to assist us in doing the work. We had worked with Boulder County often with no issues and wrongly assumed it would not be an issue for Larimer. However when the alternative sentencing department with Larimer County courts refused to allow this person to perform this for our post we were astounded. We questioned further go so far as to contact the county commissioners. What we discovered and were told appears to be true. According to Larimer County state law allows for community service to be performed working with a nonprofit such and lists 501 c(3). All American Legion posts are organized under an act of congress and are 519 non profit entities. Since this one group is omitted from state law we are excluded from working with the county and courts to provide opportunities to fulfill community service requirements.

At this point Larimer follows the law as written and does not allow 519 organizations to assist them. I spoke with the director who was very helpful and she made clear the law concerning who may be allowed needs to be amended to include 519 organizations before they can do anything. The current director is Laurie Stolen and she is the director for Larimer County Courts community service office. She can be reached at 970-980-2611.

Please let me know how I can be of further assistance.

Paul Talafuse 970-692-1926