



# Michigan Department of State Campaign Finance Complaint Form

This complaint form may be used to file a complaint alleging that someone violated the [Michigan Campaign Finance Act](#) (MCFA). Electronic submission of the form to [BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov](mailto:BOERegulatory@Michigan.gov) is strongly recommended. For instructions on how to complete this form, see the [Campaign Finance Complaint Guidebook & Procedures](#) document. All spaces are required unless otherwise indicated.

## Section 1. Complainant

Your name		Daytime telephone number
Eric Rothoff		2318284310
Mailing address		
2541 E Raymond Rd		
City	State	Zip
Twin Lake	MI	49457
Email (recommended)		
erothoff@gmail.com		

## Section 2. Alleged Violator (Respondent)

Name		
DONALD NILSON-HINTON		
Mailing address		
1024 AMHERST RD		
City	State	Zip
ROOSEVELT PARK	MI	49441
Email (recommended)		
Committee ID (optional)		
Muskegon County Campaign ID 84263		

*Please include email addresses to expedite processing time and mitigate mail delays.*

## Section 3. Allegations *(use additional sheets if more space is needed)*

Section(s) of the MCFA alleged to be violated:

Section 47 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) provides that certain political communications or paid political advertisements must identify the person or persons paying for the communication. The communication can be to further the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage or defeat of the ballot question. Communications are made in a number of formats:

Printed items include signs and mailers, novelty items such as pens, pencils and stickers



Explain how these sections were violated:

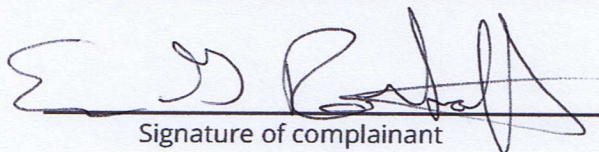
This is the candidate's second campaign, and he still has not put identifiers on his political Campaign signs. I have seen less than 20 signs, so I don't think he has spend more than his \$1000 reporting waiver. If he printed the signs as an individual rather than his candidate committee, (and I believe therefore would not have to put his name on the signs) about 20 signs would put him well over the \$100 independent expenditure limit. (I can not see if he filed a report, because the county does not have them online, from what I could find.) I could not find an email for him, but his campaign finance paperwork for his candidate committee has a phone number of (616) 540-9163. If it is suppose to be filed with the County Clerk rather than here, please let me know. But the last time I asked, I was told all MCFA violations was suppose to go to Lansing, even though the campaign committee is registered with the County.

Evidence included with the submission of the complaint that supports the allegations:

Pictures of the signs included in email with this complaint.

#### Section 4. Certification *(required)*

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, formed after a reasonable inquiry under the circumstances, each factual contention of this complaint is supported by evidence.

  
Signature of complainant

10/30/23

Date



★ ELECT ★

Don Nilson-Hinton

For City Council  
Roosevelt Park

★ ELECT ★

Don Nilson-Hinton

For City Council  
Roosevelt Park



★ ELECT ★

*Don Nilson-Hinton*

*For City Council  
Roosevelt Park*



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

November 1, 2023

Donald Nilson-Hinton  
1024 Amherst Road  
Roosevelt Park, MI 49441

Re: *Rothoff v. Nilson-Hinton*  
Campaign Finance Complaint No. 23-079

Dear Mr. Nilson-Hinton:

The Department of State (Department) has received a formal complaint alleging you have violated MCL 169.247 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) by failing to include an identification statement on a campaign yard sign. Photographs of the signs were included with the complaint; a copy of the complaint is enclosed.

The MCFA and corresponding administrative rules require a person who produces printed material that relates to an election include the phrase "Paid for by [name and address of the person who paid for the item]." MCL 169.247(1), R 169.36(2). A knowing violation constitutes a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.00, imprisonment for up to 93 days, or both. MCL 169.247(6).

Upon review, the evidence submitted supports the conclusion that a potential violation of the Act has occurred. From the outset, the Department must consider whether the materials fall within the ambit of the MCFA. Because the materials explicitly advocate for the election or defeat of a candidate, the materials contain express advocacy as defined by the Act. MCL 169.206(2)(j). As explained above, such materials must contain a "paid for by" statement listing the name and address of the committee purchasing the materials. However, the evidence shows that the materials at issue here omit part or all of that required statement. That absence supports the conclusion that a potential violation of the MCFA has occurred.

After reaching this conclusion, the Act requires the Department to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods" if it finds that "there may be reason to believe that a violation ... has occurred [.]". MCL 169.215(10). The objective of an informal resolution is "to correct the violation or prevent a further violation." *Id.*

Given this, the Department concludes that a formal warning is a sufficient resolution to the complaint and is hereby advising you that MCL 169.247(1) and R 169.36(2) require you to print a complete and accurate identification statement on all campaign materials, consisting of the phrase "paid for by" followed by the full name and address of your committee.

Note that all printed materials referencing you or your candidacy produced in the future must include this identification statement. For all materials currently in circulation, the paid for by statement must be corrected. If this information has been included in your materials and you wish to rebut the Department's conclusion, you must respond in writing to the Department within 15 business days of the date of this letter. Otherwise, the Department will treat the complaint as resolved.

Please be advised that this notice has served to remind you of your obligation under the Act to identify your printed matter and may be used in future proceedings as evidence that tends to establish a knowing violation of the Act. A knowing violation is a misdemeanor offense and may merit referral to the Attorney General for enforcement action. MCL 169.247(6), 215(10).

Sincerely,

Regulatory Section  
Bureau of Elections  
Michigan Department of State

Enclosure  
c: Eric Rothoff