Vermont Superior Court
Filed 09/14/26
Washington Unit

VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
Washington Unit
65 State Street
Montpelier VT 05602
802-828-2091
www.vermontjudiciary.org

CIVIL DIVISION
Case No. 26-CV-04413

Anne de Bever v. Patty Cooper

ENTRY REGARDING MOTION

Title: Motion for Extension of Time to Answer (Motion: 1)
Filer: Patty Cooper
Filed Date: September 11, 2026

The motion is GRANTED.

Defendant's deadline to respond to Plaintiff's complaint is extended to October 14, 2026. V.R.C.P. 6(b). This extension gives Defendant 30 additional days to find legal counsel and prepare answer or response consistent with Rule 12 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure.

The Court will schedule this matter for a preliminary status conference at its earliest available date after October 14th. If Defendant intends to request specific accommodations from the Court, she is directed to file those requests in advance and to be as specific as possible about both her needs and the accommodations sought. See *Duvall v. County of Kitsap*, 260 F.3d 1124, 1136–37 (9th Cir. 2001) (applying the ADA standard for accommodations for a hearing-impaired litigant in a courtroom). The Court may inquire at the hearing about the accommodations being sought and to gather sufficient information to determine what accommodations are necessary. Id.

Any accommodations offered will be those "necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate." Id.; see also *Bhatt v. University of Vermont*, 2008 VT 76, ¶¶ 13, 14. In granting such accommodations, the Court is also guided by Vermont's public accommodation law, which states:

> A public accommodation shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures when those modifications are necessary to offer goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the public accommodation can demonstrate that making the

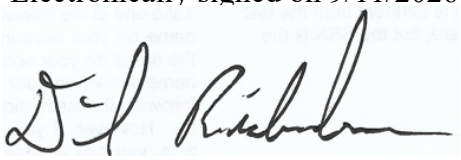
> modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations.

9 V.S.A. § 4502(c)(5). For Courts, this means that any accommodation sought or granted must still preserve the fundamental rights found within the court process. This normally includes the requirement for live testimony when evidence is sought. If Defendant requires a communication specialist, she may contact the Court, which makes such professionals available for hearings.

With these parameters in mind, Defendant's motion is **Granted** consistent with this Order and the new responsive deadline of October 14, 2026.

So Ordered.

Electronically signed on 9/11/2026 5:53 PM pursuant to V.R.E.F. 9(d)



Daniel Richardson
Superior Court Judge