



Veterans Foundation of NH, Inc. dba Veterans Law Project
77 Central Street, Manchester, NH 03101

Raising the Bar for Veteran Ser-

www.VFNH.org

Veterans Law Project

Legal Boots On The Ground

Status Report

Jan-Aug 2015

Prepared by

Tara Sue Myers, Executive Director

Contributing Editors

Lawrence Vogelmann, Legal Director
Victoria Gaudreau, Program Director
Stephen Rasche, Staff Attorney
Sally Asher, VLP Veterans Advocate



VLP by the Hours— 18 Days in August

Programmatic Work of the Veterans Law Project Legal Boots on the Ground

The VLP received 31 cases and over 200 phone calls in the 18 days between August 6th through 31st. One day alone this month (18 Aug), staff responded to almost 50 calls . Here are the hours for one paid employee and 5 volunteers:

- 54 hours on intake, phone calls, consults, scheduling & referrals by Program Director
- 40 hours on email with clients, attorneys etc. by Program Director
- 100 hours on case work (paralegal work, meetings & referrals) by Program Director
- 8 hours on drop-ins (normally existing clients with questions and additional documentation) with Program Director & Executive Director
- 9 hours of in-house consult, case review & quality control by Program Director & Executive Director
- 20 hours on legal consultation, case work & review performed by the Legal Director & Staff Attorney
- 6 hours of intern support with intake, research and paralegal support by UNH Law Students
- 43 hours of VA claims volunteer assistance by VLP Veterans Advocate.
- 55 hours contributed by the Executive Director toward programmatic support (intake, case review, phone duty, call-backs, intern supervision, QCM interviews with clients and Web development for client use. This does not include over 10 hours for administration)

August 6-31	Receipts	Expenditures
Easter Seals	\$5,000.00	
Insurance		\$1372.57
ADPTX/FINCL SVC		\$3823.30
ADP Payroll Fees		\$95.12
Phone		\$75.00
Travel/Fuel		\$170.00
TOTAL		\$5,535.99

335 Hours Worked to:

Raise the Bar for Veterans
www.VeteransLawProject.org





Defending Our Defenders

Veterans Law Project: Legal Boots on the Ground for Veterans

VLP News August 27, 2015 By Tara Sue Myers, Executive Director, B.S. Political Theory

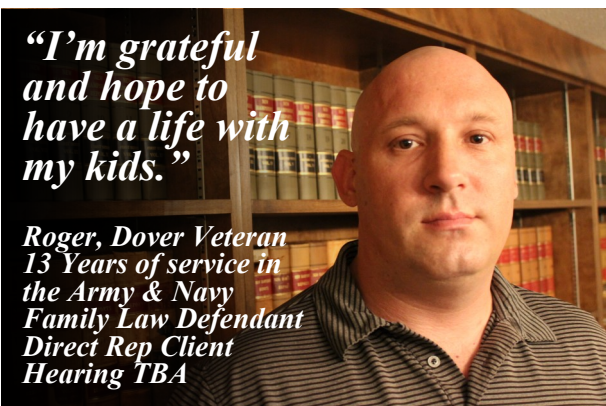
We are the Veterans Law Project, "Legal Boots" a 501c3 dba of the Veterans Foundation of NH. Our work is "raising the bar," for veteran service; providing legal resources to NH veterans wherever they can be reached.

Each month the VLP conducts intake for 30-45 veterans. The VLP is on track to in some way assist over 500 veterans per year.

There have been about 260 documented veteran cases by VLP staff so far in 2015 and more are added daily. Most cases have been handled in-house for pro se litigants. We have referred veterans to the NH Bar Pro Bono or NH Bar Reduced Fee programs, and our own referral network. Also the project works to offer an online repository of legal information for pro se veterans to help them help themselves.

"Unmet legal needs are a major reason that some veterans become and remain homeless." CIVIL LEGAL AID SUPPORTS FEDERAL EFFORTS TO HELP VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS, Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

"4 of the top 10 unmet needs of homeless veterans involve legal assistance for: eviction/foreclosure prevention; child support issues; outstanding warrants/fines; and restoring a driver's license. Other top 10 unmet needs often have a legal component." VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ACCESS TO JUSTICE INITIATIVE • <http://www.justice.gov/atj/legalaid> • APRIL 2014



"I'm grateful and hope to have a life with my kids."

**Roger, Dover Veteran
13 Years of service in
the Army & Navy
Family Law Defendant
Direct Rep Client
Hearing TBA**

What makes the Veterans Law Project Successful?

The VLP assists veterans in need by (1) providing emergency access to legal professionals; (2) offering in-house legal services and referrals at no cost to the veteran; (3) reaching veterans and active duty service members both here and around the world; (4) encouraging collaboration with community agencies and local

resources; and (5) employing highly experienced, veteran legal professionals, attorneys and paralegals who have an understanding of the unique needs of veterans.



VLP Client Profile Notes

POA-Parenting Plan for Active Duty Guardsman in Kuwait

Helping NH veterans and service members regardless of their geographic location, Program Director, Victoria Gaudreau has been providing ongoing assistance Scott, a NH Guardsman now serving in the Middle East. Father of two, the soldier had full physical custody of his children and was preparing to deploy. The need was for a parenting plan and responses to motions. Gaudreau assisted Scott in reaching a successful judicial conclusion. The VLP continues to assist the veteran with other legal matters.

Disabled Marine Cleared of Charges

The VLP helped a Marine who had no criminal history before returning home from Afghanistan. Injured while in service, the veteran was medically retired from the Marine Corps with a traumatic brain injury and PTSD. Now on medication and utilizing a service dog, the veteran was facing possession of marijuana charges and other issues when he contacted the VLP. The case was resolved. The Marine was grateful and surprised by the outcome. "It is as though nothing ever happened." he said. "I thank you guys so much for sending me in the right direction."

Father of Two Reunited with Children

Two VLP cases were covered in local media this month. One regarding custodial interference where the VLP client who was denied access to his children by his ex-spouse. Staff have been working with the veteran for over a month. When the veteran was awarded custody by the court, the ex-spouse absconded with the children for several weeks and was only recently found. This case is ongoing.



VLP Veterans Advocate & NOVA Make Successful Team

Teamed with Mike Viterna, veterans' attorney from Michigan and President of the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates (NOVA), VLP volunteer Sally Asher, a British lawyer, helped obtain 100% VA disability benefits in a claim that had taken sixteen years dating from 1999. For a year, Mike and Sally worked on the claim with the Vietnam era veteran from Sullivan County. This month Sally also helped the veteran in obtaining a loan from the VA to purchase a house. Homeless on a number of occasions due to lost earning capacity, the veteran has now moved into his new home. Sally is continuing to assist the veteran with a Social Security Disability appeal and an appeal to the Court of Appeal for Veterans' Claims regarding retroactive VA payments.

VLP Mourns Death of Suffering Hero



The VLP staff was taken aback this month by the death of a veteran assisted by staff in the first quarter. Returning home in 2007, the veteran had mental health issues due to service and the death of several unit mates during his twelve month tour in Iraq. After a long mental health ordeal, the veteran passed away in his home in Nashua.



VLP Operations

Referral Sources

The VLP receives regular referrals from VA hospitals in Manchester and White River Junction, Easter Seals, Pro Force, United Way, Harbor Homes, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Vets, the American Legion, SVAC, area police departments, correctional facilities, federal and state legislators, through our web presence and links online.

Quality Control Management

The VLP assess the veteran's legal situation at intake. After services are provided or referrals made, quality control is done by post-action interviews. These offer a personal, detailed insight into the veteran's situation and how services provided are perceived by them. Pertinent information is gathered and recorded into a central repository for staff review. Recently, QCM interviews have occasionally been conducted on video so that testimonials can be gathered at the same time.

VLP Clients

Many litigants seek assistance with child support modifications and parenting plans. The VLP has discovered for many homeless and unemployed veterans, their struggle can be traced to past child support orders based on active duty income. Their obligations can not be fulfilled after separation from military service. Furthermore, veterans are experiencing unfair bias as it relates to PTS and time in service where courts are inappropriately using post war trauma as grounds for denying veterans basic parental rights.

Needs for Female Veterans

For the month of August 2015, the VLP saw an uptick in the number of female veterans served coming in at 19.3%. Approximately 13% of veterans served by the VLP YTD are female, while approximately 8.4% of the veteran population in the US is female. Among female veteran cases, 44% are family law issues, 32% are housing matters, 20% are VA benefit issues. Less than one percent of female veterans are seeking legal assistance for military discharges, harassment or some other civil or criminal matter.

Military Service Among VLP Clients

VLP clients are from all branches of service and eras of war from 1951 to present. Over 30% of the veterans served by the VLP have over 10 years of military service. About 4.4% of veterans have served in two branches of service throughout the course of their military career.

There is a strong showing of Vietnam War veterans. They are a "neglected class." About one-half fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack. This suggests a large gap in service exists.

VLP Referral Sources	
Web Search	24%
VA-Unnamed	23%
VA Justice Out-	13%
VASH	4%
NH Guard	5%
Easter Seals	5%
Harbor Homes	5%
Friends/Family	4%
Senators/Reps	4%
Attorneys	4%
VSO (VFW, DAV, etc.)	3%
Other	3%
DOS	1%
NH Bar Assoc.	1%
VLP Clients	1%



VLP Legal Boots Case Work

The VLP pursues a holistic approach to veterans' legal services. Often contacts need assistance with multiple legal matters at one time. For example, veterans seeking help with debt & child support payment issues may also be entitled to VA or Social Security benefits. The variety of veteran's legal issues presented to the VLP include civil rights, immigration, business development, estates, housing, disability, employment, bankruptcy, criminal cases, military matters, VA appeals, discharge upgrades and family issues of considerable range.

Among the 260 veteran cases handled by VLP through August of 2015, the most needed support is for family law. It is important to note divorce and child custody cases are typically ongoing, spanning years throughout the life of the family's children. Some veterans have multiple cases requiring more extensive intervention. As time goes by, the VLP Legal Boots case load grows.

Of 260 documented veterans served, about 80 veterans received direct legal consultation & case assistance from the VLP. About 100 cases have been referred by VLP to pro bono attorneys or other agencies. Over 60 veterans have received legal consultation over the phone or via email.

Family Law 40%

Over 30% are custody and child support modification matters and over 7% are divorce cases.

Housing & Finances 16%

About 10% of cases are housing issues. Bankruptcy & debt collection cases comprise about 6% of all cases.

Criminal Law 12%

Criminal issues ranging from trespassing to DUI comprise about 12% of VLP cases.

Veterans Administration Benefits (VA) 7%

VA claims comprise about 7% of all cases.

Estates 3%

About 3% of cases are estate planning and probate cases.

Discharge Upgrades 3%

The VLP anticipates an increase in discharge upgrade cases. Many veterans have less than honorable discharges due to sexual orientation and conduct precipitate by PTS or TBI.

Social Security Disability & Worker's Comp 2%

Other Legal Matters 5%

About 4 percent of veteran requests involve other civil action or business formation

General Inquiries 12%

VLP Legal Boots are receive a range of questions via phone and email.

Enlistment Years of VLP clients	Percent of all Intake
1951-1970	14%
1971-1990	16%
1991-2000	10%
2001-present	26%

VLP Client's Years in Military Service	
1-2 Years	13%
3 Years	24%
4 Years	9%
5 Years	7%
6 years	9%
7-9 Years	7%
10-15 years	15%
20 Years+	16%



VLP Intake By County*

The VLP has assisted veterans from every county in New Hampshire. Additionally, VLP staff have traveled outside the state to assist NH veterans with cases in Washington D.C. and New York. The VLP has also served out-of-state residents requesting legal resources online or over the phone from Vermont, Maine, North Carolina, Texas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Alabama, Arkansas & Massachusetts.

Counties	Reporting	In Process	Casework	Consult	Referred	NA
Reported	144	26	42	24	56	9
Belknap	4%	0	1	2	0	3
Carroll	4%	0	1	1	3	1
Cheshire	2%	0	1	2	0	0
Coos	5%	0	1	1	4	1
Franklin	<1%	1	0	0	0	0
Grafton	6%	3	3	0	3	0
Hillsborough	38%	18	17	7	25	0
Merrimack	16%	1	8	6	6	2
Rockingham	12%	3	7	1	5	1
Strafford	8%	0	3	1	7	0
Sullivan	2%	1	2	1	1	0
Out of State	4%	0	0	3	3	1
	No Record	In Process	Casework	Office	Referred	NA
Other	114	18	36	15	29	26

*As shown in the table above, out of state cases are still referred or consulted as necessary. Cases "In Process" are those awaiting response from clients to determine if VLP staff can be of assistance.



Veterans Fact Sheet

The VLP has found a particular unmet need in rural areas.

Over 115,500 NH residents are veterans. Over 71% of NH veterans are estimated to have served in at least one war. Almost 15% of Carroll County and Coos County residents are veterans. These figures are almost double the national average of 7.3 percent. This figure **does not** include the over 9% estimated federal and state prison populations who are veterans.

- About 27.4 % are between ages 35-54
- About 25.1 % are between ages 55-64
- About 21.3 % are between were 75 years or older

At minimum, 90,000 of the 9 million inmates annually released from U.S. jails or prisons are veterans. About 82% are eligible for VA services, having been discharged either under honorable (65%) or general with honorable (17%) conditions. BJS reported in 2006 that 60% of all U.S. jail inmates had a mental health problem. As of 2005, only one in six inmates with a mental health diagnosis had received mental health treatment since incarceration.

Mental health issues often lead to homelessness, unemployment, domestic unrest and criminal behavior.

- About 1 in 5 veterans experience PTS.
- About 20% of returning OIF and OEF veterans turn to heavy drinking or drugs. An estimated 20% of veterans have TBI.
- About 3.6-6.5% veterans will face or have faced divorce. This number is expected to increase upon separation of service, and is as high as 8% among women.

Veterans represent 11% of the adult civilian population, but 26% of the homeless population, according to the Homeless Research Institute (2007).

The number of homeless Vietnam-era veterans, male and female, is greater than the number of soldiers who died during the war.

- Only about 32% of homeless veterans have VA benefits.
- Approximately 4.4 percent of veterans report poverty status

An average of 22 veterans commit suicide every day. The group with the highest number of suicides are men ages 50 to 59. The estimated annual suicide rate is 29.5 per 100,000 veterans with one veteran lost every 65 minutes. Military records are often not kept after retirement, meaning data may not represent the total number.



VLP Staff-*The Legal Boots On The Ground in New Hampshire*

Lawrence A. Vogelmann, Legal Director Attorney Vogelmann is the son of a WWII Veteran. During his tenure as President of the New Hampshire Bar Association, Vogelmann made veterans legal outreach a top priority. Attorney Vogelmann has been a trial lawyer for over 40 years, and has tried hundreds of cases to verdict, and handled dozens of appeals in state and federal courts throughout the country.

Stephen Rasche, Staff Attorney Providing guidance and direction for staff and veterans, Attorney Rasche has been a foundational supporter of the Veterans Law Project. He is the father of a U.S. Army soldier, and has been affected by his own global experiences, Stephen has been a driving force behind the development of the project and serves as VLP Staff Attorney.

Victoria Gaudreau, VLP Program Director VLP Program Director, Victoria Gaudreau is a U.S. Army veteran and highly experienced paralegal and administrative professional. Gaudreau has almost 30 years of diversified experience within various specialized areas of law. Mrs. Gaudreau brings to the VLP, experience in marital and family law, alternative dispute resolution, (including the collaborative law process), civil litigation, probate administration and estate planning.

She is a world traveler and spouse of an active duty U.S. Navy NCO, who is due to retire soon after serving almost 30 years. Ms. Gaudreau served as office administrator of the Navy Fitness & Wellness Center in Yokosuka, Japan. She was commended with an award for restructuring the Fitness Department's office process and procedures. In addition, she served as the Command Family Ombudsman for Navy Information Operations Command Yokosuka for three years, receiving multiple Commendation Awards for her dedicated service to the command, the families and their mission readiness.

While serving in the U.S. Army, Victoria excelled as an Administrative Specialist and Personnel and Office Administrator for the Headquarters of an Artillery Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. She was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for her dedicated service.

Sally Asher, VLP VA Claims assistant *British Solicitor* Sally Asher is a British lawyer who has assisted our veterans in a variety of legal issues, mostly VA benefit related. Asher has trained with veterans' lawyer Mike Viterna of Belleville, Michigan, President of the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates (NOVA) and plans to attain VA accreditation.

Tara Sue Myers, VLP Executive Director *B.S. Political Theory* Tara Sue Myers is Executive Director and founding board member of the Veterans Foundation of New Hampshire. Providing legal services to veterans has been her goal since Tara Sue was a young student. She and her associates have contributed thousands of hours and resources to veteran service organizations since 2002 by providing web development for over 5000 veterans groups around the country. Tara Sue and husband Ross Myers established www.veteranslawproject.org initially as an online repository for veterans in 2006. The Myers supported the establishment of a Veterans Pro Bono Clinic at North Carolina Central with Craig Kabatchnick, and helped to prepare congressional testimony on the state of veterans affairs with VFW member Larry Dean. Tara Sue is president of her local VFW Auxiliary. Ms. Myers comes from a family of combat veterans including siblings, parents & grandparents with multiple tours. She honors her family's sacrifice to country in her service to veterans.



PROPOSED VLP ANNUAL PROJECT & OPERATIONS BUDGET

Right now the VLP is an underfunded program.

Over 90% of all contributions to the VLP have been used to support programmatic expenses.

The VLP has received approximately \$45,000 in contributions so far this year.

We have been primarily supported by our volunteers

Only 15% of contributions have come from outside agencies, businesses or organizations.

PLANNED EXPENDITURES	
Field Personnel	\$175,000.00
FULL TIME PROGRAM DIR.	
STAFF ATTORNEY	
PARALEGAL	
VA ADVOCATE	
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
PAY ROLL TAXES & FEES	\$15,500.00
INSURANCES	\$6,500.00
RENTS	\$20,000.00
TRAVEL/MOBILE OFFICE	\$12,500.00
POSTAGE/PRINTING	\$3,300.00
FILING FEES/COURT FEES	\$2,500.00
PARKING	\$720.00
SUPPORT/HOSTING	\$1,000.00
PHONE/WEB	\$1,980.00
CLE / TEXT BOOKS	\$3,000.00
INTERNSHIP STIPENDS	\$1,000.00
BANKING & FINANCE	\$1,000.00
HARDWARE/SOFTWARE	\$6000.00
TOTAL EST. EXPENDITURES	\$250,000.00

For more information visit us at www.veteranslawproject.org



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VLP COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Norwin S. and Elizabeth N.
Bean Foundation



THE FULLER
FOUNDATION



ADVISORY BOARD

Josh Ayers, Easter Seals NH
John Barrett, VFW Veteran Service Office
Peter Burdett, Veterans Count
Dave Canter, Lamb's Chapel
Paul Cote, State of NH – DOC
Pat Duffy, Pat Duffy & Associates
Dan Feltes, NH Senator
Bud Fitch, Office of Sen. Ayotte
Scott W. Flood, Assistant Counsel, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
William Ryan Hart, Jr. Chief of Police Londonderry, NH
Glenn Kazan, Easter Seals of NH
Diane Levesque, Veteran Justice Outreach, Manchester VA
Ken Lull, Veterans Count
Timothy McLaughlin, Shaheen & Gordon, P.A.
Linda Meader, NH VFW Auxiliary
Deanna Monroe, Easter Seals of NH
Ross Myers, VLP Organizer
Michael Owens, Veteran Justice Outreach/Re-entry specialist, White River Junction VAMC
Stephen Rasche, VLP Staff Attorney
Andrea Reed, Harbor Homes, Inc.
Lara Saffo, Grafton County Attorneys' Office
R. James "Jim" Steiner, Steiner Law Office, PLLC
Alex Talcott, SNHU Business Law
Ron White, MC DOC





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VFNH, INC. BOARD MEMBERS

Board Members of the Veterans Foundation of NH	Office	Affiliations
Gregory Lynch	President	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) NH, SVAC
Donna Knapper	Vice President	Auxiliary to the VFW
Dana Hussey	Treasurer	VFW NH
Larry Vogelmann	Legal Director	Nixon Vogelmann Law
Joe Clark	Board Member	VFW NH
Tara Sue Myers	Executive Director	Auxiliary VFW NH

Officers of the Veterans Law Project	Position
Tara Sue Myers	Executive Director
Larry Vogelmann	Legal Director
Stephen Rasche	Staff Attorney
Victoria Gaudreau	Program Director



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INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **MAY 10 2011**

VETERANS FOUNDATION OF NEW
HAMPSHIRE INC
C/O TARA SUE CLARK
52 CROSS RD
ROCHESTER, NH 03867-5170

Employer Identification Number:
27-4675618
DLN:
17053095314021
Contact Person: DALE T SCHABER ID# 31175
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:
January 31
Public Charity Status:
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
February 2, 2011
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

NEW HAMPSHIRE NONPROFIT CHECKLIST

Legal Requirements for NH Nonprofit Organizations (defined as all IRS 501(c)(3) entities, except religious organizations)

For All Nonprofits

Annually

- Filing of Annual Report with NH Director of Charitable Trusts*
- Filing of appropriate annual tax returns:
 - o If annual revenue is over \$25,000, filing Form 990 with the IRS and the NH Director of Charitable Trusts * OR,
 - o If annual revenue is under \$25,000, filing Form 990N with the IRS
- Conflict of Interest Policy and filing of annual conflict of interest statement with the NH Director of Charitable Trusts

When nonprofit is established

- Registration with NH Secretary of State* (must be renewed every five years)
- Minimum of five independent directors (see RSA 292:6-a)
- IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status confirmed by IRS Exemption Letter
- Employer Identification Number (EIN) received from IRS
EIN _____

*Some NH nonprofit organizations are affiliates of regional or national organizations and are not required to be registered with the State of NH, provided the national organization has registered. In such cases a letter of explanation should be supplied.

For Nonprofits with revenues over \$500,000 (to be filed with the NH Director of Charitable Trusts)

- Nonprofits with annual revenues of \$500,000-\$1,000,000 must file financial statements prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principals
- Nonprofits with annual revenues over \$1,000,000 must file an audited financial statement
- Note: Nonprofits with endowment funds have additional requirements
(See reverse side for resources)

This organization (*print name*) Veterans Foundation of NH, Inc. d.b.a. Veterans Law Project is in compliance with all of the requirements of the NH Director of Charitable Trusts, the IRS and the NH Secretary of State, as listed above.

Gregory Lynch

Tara Sue Myers

Board President/Chair (*print name*)

Executive Director/CEO (*print name*)

 6 July 2015

 6 July 2015

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

DO NOT submit copies of all the documents listed above, simply submit this completed checklist. This form needs to be originally signed on an annual basis. Photocopies of the original are perfectly acceptable.



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