



Court ruling rejects delay by DSS in child sex-reassignment case

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COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) - A ruling by the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court has rejected a motion from the state Social Services Department to delay a case brought forth by the parents of an 8-year-old child who was given sexual-reassignment surgery while under the state's care.



The 8-year-old, only known by the name M.C., was born with both male and female genitalia.

Mark and Pam Crawford, the child's parents, filed lawsuits against the state in partnership with the Southern Poverty Law Center and other advocates in federal and state courts.

The suit alleges DSS performed "dangerous and mutilating surgery" in April 2006 and took away the child's right to choose his or her sexual identity later in life.

The Crawfords adopted the child a few months after the surgery. They say he identifies himself as a boy.

"The court's decision moves M.C. a step closer to justice," said Kristi Graunke, Southern Poverty Law Center senior supervising attorney in statement. "This ruling holds doctors accountable when they recommend such drastic and irreversible procedures for infants but fail to ensure caregivers are fully informed about the risks and options."

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