

Court: Accept Your Child's New Gender or Lose Custody

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February 16, 2018 Family Research Council

This week, a shocking story hit the [national news](#) about an Ohio teenager who was removed from her parents' home by authorities. Why? Because they didn't support their daughter's decision to identify as a boy and declined to authorize hormone therapy to facilitate her gender "transition." Today, [the story broke](#) that Juvenile Court Judge Sylvia Hendon has permanently removed the child from her parents' custody (despite the fact that the child is already 17 and would be able to make medical decisions for herself in less than a year).

What's especially alarming is that a lawyer representing the child -- as well as Donald Clancy of the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office -- cited the parents' religious beliefs as an argument for robbing them of their rights! The mom and dad are being criticized for seeking out a Christian therapist for their daughter and for daring to send her to Catholic school. Even so, the parents were clear that their stance on the gender transition wasn't motivated on faith alone. After all, they pointed out, they'd had lengthy consultations with medical professions and did hours of research on their own. Only then did they come to the conclusion that "this is not in their child's best interest." (The American College of Pediatricians -- not to be confused with the more "politically correct" American Academy of Pediatrics -- [agrees.](#))

For years, LGBT activists have scoffed at warnings from FRC and others that the radical LGBT movement poses a threat to personal and religious freedom. In the past, the Left directed most of its attacks on religious expression in the public square, doing everything it could to restrict faith to the four walls of your house or church. Now, even that tolerance is tumbling down.

I wrote [yesterday](#) about the shocking attack by two Michigan state legislators against a church in metropolitan Detroit that offered an "Unashamed Identity Workshop" for teen girls struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identity. It's becoming ever clearer that if we don't fight to defend our liberties everywhere, they will not be safe from attack anywhere -- not even in your church or your home.

Tony Perkins' Washington Update is written with the aid of FRC senior writers.