



## Child & Parental Rights

C A M P A I G N

*Restore. Defend. Secure.*

On April 20, 2023, Sean and Ashley Willey filed a lawsuit against Sweetwater County School District #1, Superintendent Kelly McGovern, Assistant Superintendent Nicole Bolton, Director of Student Services Kayci Arnoldi and Principal of Black Butte High School Bryant Blake in the federal district court for the District of Wyoming. In the suit the Willeys allege violations of their Constitutionally protected rights of free exercise, free speech under the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and their parental rights under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983, as a result of the defendant's provision of gender altering care and using a male name and pronouns with their daughter.

In addition to monetary damages, the Willeys seek a Declaration that Sweetwater County School District #1 officials violated their parental rights; a Preliminary and Permanent Injunction forbidding school officials from referring to their children in any way other than according to their given name and biological sex, and cease all private conversations with their children regarding gender identity; and, a Declaration that school district officials violated their right to familial privacy and their free exercise of religion, and Ashley Willey's freedom of speech.

As expected, the defendants filed motions to dismiss the Willey's suit. Despite the motions, on June 30, 2023, the court issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting the school district and its employees from purposely misleading and/or withholding information from parents regarding their child's requests to be treated or referred to as a gender opposite than their biological sex. On December 18, 2023, the federal court denied the defendants' motions.

The case is now in the discovery stage with initial disclosures, required pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1)(A), due on February 26, 2024. Remaining discovery - interrogatories, request for production of documents and depositions is expected to take most, if not all, of 2024.

See the Amended Complaint [here](#)

See Order [here](#)