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DOJ Backs Christian Doctors Challenging Colorado Law Forcing Gender Procedures on Minors

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Have demonstrated a strong likelihood of success on multiple constitutional claims"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

The United States Department of Justice has stepped into a federal court fight in Colorado, filing a statement of interest on Friday 20 November 2026 backing Christian medical professionals who are suing the state over a law they say forces them to provide gender-transition procedures against their faith and their medical judgment. The DOJ told the court the plaintiffs "have demonstrated a strong likelihood of success on multiple constitutional claims" and are "entitled to preliminary relief" - a court order that would halt enforcement of the law while the case is heard.

The case is Christian Medical & Dental Associations and Button Family Practice v. Aubrey C. Sullivan et al., And it challenges the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, known as CADA.

The plaintiffs say the law, as the state applies it, compels them to provide hormone drugs and gender-transition surgeries for minors and adults - procedures they believe are dangerous, unproven, and contrary to their religious convictions.

They are not asking the court to strike down anti-discrimination law in general. They are asking it to stop the state from using that law to force their hands in the exam room.

At the centre of the case is a man who looks nothing like a culture-war figure. Dr. Marcus Button runs Button Family Practice, a family-owned primary-care clinic in a small town in southern Colorado.

He is the kind of doctor who knows his patients by name, who has treated the same families for years, and who took an oath to do no harm. That oath, he says, is the heart of the matter: his faith and his medical judgment both tell him he must not give children hormone drugs and surgeries he believes will hurt them.

The other plaintiff is the Christian Medical & Dental Associations, or CMDA, a national body of Christian doctors, dentists, and other health professionals. Alliance Defending Freedom, the religious-liberty law firm, represents both plaintiffs.

Its senior counsel, Bryan Neihart, did not soften the words: "Colorado should not yet again be at war with common sense, sound science, and religious freedom... The state is not allowed to conscript doctors to harm the very children and adults entrusted to their care."

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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