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# Parents who banned blood transfusion for boy (3) lose court battle

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Tuesday, 21 February 2012

A three-year-old boy can be given a blood transfusion during surgery despite religious objections from his Jehovah's Witness parents, the High Court has ruled.

The child, who cannot be named, needs to have his tonsils removed because of recurring infections.

The boy's father told the court yesterday that while he and his wife wanted him to get the best medical treatment, it was a core belief that blood "is not to be taken to the body".

The child's consultant, in an affidavit, said if the hospital was not in a position to administer the transfusion, there was a risk of death and brain damage.

The surgery is scheduled for tomorrow, Eileen Barrington, for the hospital, told the court.

The child's GP explained that he had four episodes of infection in the past four months and required antibiotics. He was satisfied that, to the greatest extent possible, the hospital would refrain from giving the transfusion and it would only happen after a review by a senior consultant.

The parents said they would consent to certain blood products being administered -- but not red blood cells, which a consultant haematologist considered was vital -- if required, Ms Barrington said.

The hospital respected the parents' religious beliefs but did not want to be in a position where it might have to be making such an application in an emergency situation where time would be of the essence, Ms Barrington added.

High Court President Mr Justice Nicholas Kearns granted the hospital an order permitting a transfusion to be given if necessary.

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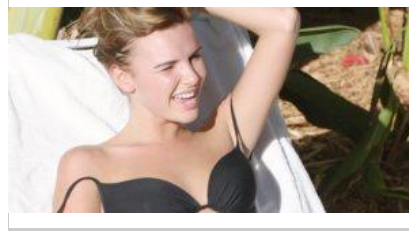
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shaza1313 43p · 5 hours ago

Glad the courts are sensible, Totally agree that these people should be arrested and their child taken into care. They are misguided fools!!

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5 replies · active 3 hours ago



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Golfie98 71p · 7 hours ago

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BaronHeinrich 89p

Langdon I find the tone of your letter disturbing. You mention "plebeian interests" and I sense...  
» 23 minutes ago

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Bernard29 103p

Did you think to protest about those conditions, or were you busy condemning those who protested?  
» 27 minutes ago

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edmondde 66p

I agree with Awilson. So we're either idiots or religious bigots !! i don't really care...  
» 28 minutes ago

The last comments for **I think I'm gay - Sex & Love, Woman - Belfasttelegraph.co.uk**

londonderry 80p

Hi Easy, I would kindly suggest that if you reread my posts, I have never suggested that the flood occurred...  
» 29 minutes ago

Wow,

Fairly unanimous support for standing up to religious dogma and the rights of the child to access medical treatment whether their parents approve or not. I wonder will some of the more religious on here support the courts ignoring religious pleas for privilege or opt-outs from civil law.

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 1 reply · active 4 hours ago

 -8 Vote up Vote down  


Awilson87 74p · 4 hours ago


So that I understand this correctly...we have an article here last week where 'religious people' get abuse for being against abortion as another form of contraceptive, and get voted down for supporting th child's rights over the parents...and now, we get religious people getting abused for the flip side of the coin. Absolutely amazing. Has anybody even came out in support of this or is it just the usual band wagon jumping without any basis at all?

How many of the pro child's rights comments on here are coming from the pro-abortion commentators of last week?

Is it worth stating a view or will I just let you assume one for me anyway?

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
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 cygnus1103 47p · 4 hours ago

Finally a judge who hasn't lapsed into complete drooling senility! Whilst people are free to believe in whatever sky fairies or bearded, sparkly-cloud dwellers they like, there comes a point in time when the vulnerable need protected from these delusional beliefs. Jehovah doesn't seem too upset. Haven't heard of any random smiting or pillars of salt.

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 spottydy 73p · 4 hours ago

Sadly, we cannot legislate for stupidity.

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 Tim\_Riches 1p · 5 hours ago

They insist this particular interpretation of scripture must be strictly adhered to unto death, yet they all have clothing of mixed fibers in their closets and don't refuse shellfish when it's offered. Old/new covenant sophistry be damned, for the Watchtower Society obviously feels infamy is an acceptable form of advertising... I bet the elder's kids would receive transfusions in secret if they needed them.

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 spottydy 73p · 5 hours ago

The authorities cannot prevent parents from filling a child's head with religious nonsense and parents cannot prevent the authorities from filling a child's veins with blood.

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 Danny Haszard 54p · 7 hours ago

Many Jehovah's Witnesses parents actually hope and rely on the courts to intervene and save their child's life.

It is old men in Yew York who run the Watchtower Society who make these arbitrary life and death rules for Jehovah's Witnesses that cause followers to die.

In 2012 the blood transfusion ban is becoming so watered down and complicated that today a JW can use 95 percent of the contents of a unit of blood as broken down "fractions".

It is the Watchtower society corporation that should be held liable for many deaths from refusal of blood transfusions.

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 2 replies · active 6 hours ago

 +6 Vote up Vote down

 iatrs 1p · 6 hours ago

If you're concerned about the Jehovah's Witness policy on blood and its effect on their children, then sign this e-petition regarding their tax exempt status:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/29949>

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 gerr1 104p

This type of resort is not designed for the likes of mere mortals. It's target market is the very...

» 31 minutes ago


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+9 Vote up Vote down

Davybarman 91p · 7 hours ago

So next time a Jehovah Witness knocks at the door. I can ask about their views on blood transfusions before I send them on their way.

At last the courts have found some common sense!!

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