



**Genital Autonomy
Legal Defense and Education Fund**
Affirming rights. Protecting choice. Redressing harm.
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
November 10, 2022

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Legal Organization Aims to Protect Children's Bodily Integrity
Asserts Genital Autonomy is for Everyone

PALM SPRINGS, California – A new non-profit legal defense fund has launched with the aim of expanding the rights of children to bodily integrity and self-determination over the most private part of their bodies—their genitals. The Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund (GALDEF) intends to raise funds to support impact litigation, lawsuits with the potential to advance equitable protection of children from non-therapeutic genital cutting regardless of sex.

The GALDEF mission is reflected in its motto “Affirming rights. Protecting choice. Redressing harm.” The group will strategize with select attorneys on methods to find plaintiffs capable of bringing credible cases that can set new precedents for affirming the bodily integrity rights of at-risk children, protecting choice for tomorrow’s children, and for redressing past harms.

Critical to GALDEF’s plans will be the creation of a Cooperating Attorneys Network Directory and Outreach (CAN DO) program to allow attorneys from various legal fields to freely list themselves so that potential plaintiffs can more easily search for the right attorney for their case.

GALDEF is compiling resources – both educational and financial – to assist a new generation of attorneys to bring successful cases challenging inadequate circumcision consent forms, hospitals and doctors who aggressively solicit parents for infant circumcision, forced foreskin retraction, and state Medicaid payments for medically unnecessary circumcisions.

The organization’s founder and president, genital autonomy pioneer Tim Hammond, and curator of the CircumcisionHarm.org website, noted “Those subjected to unnecessary childhood genital cutting are increasingly seeking legal recourse for the harm done to them.” He also noted that a growing number of attorneys believe that forced non-therapeutic genital cutting of healthy children based on specious health arguments constitutes consumer fraud, is medically unethical and violates human rights. Charges of fraud typically have no statute of limitations in which to bring a lawsuit.

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“Genital cutting customs” Hammond said, “raise serious questions about bodily autonomy, the core question being ‘Who should decide how much of a child’s genitals they get to keep?’”

In the U.S., girls are protected at the Federal level, and also in some states, from genital cutting practices that in many cases remove less tissue than infant male circumcision. In recent years intersex lobbyists have persuaded several hospitals, including Lurie Children’s Hospital (Chicago) and Boston Children’s Hospital, to end medically unnecessary ‘gender normalizing’ surgeries that intersex activists have called ‘genital mutilation.’

According to Hammond, because boys have no such legal protections, between 1.2 and 1.5 million healthy infant males each year are subjected to medically unnecessary circumcision, primarily for social reasons.

The organization’s website cites numerous attorney endorsements, including David Llewellyn of Atlanta (GA)—known as the ‘circumcision lawyer’ for his successes in challenging circumcision in the courts—who remarked “I think this is a great idea. We have needed such a fund for a long time.”

Doctors Opposing Circumcision founder, George Denniston, MD, endorsed the new organization saying: “Doctors will put down their scalpels when they realize that the profits from non-therapeutic infant male circumcision are no match against lawsuits asserting fraud and establishing the rights of children to bodily integrity.”

Interested individuals can reach the organization through its website – www.GALDEF.org – and show their support by subscribing to email updates from the home page, volunteering their skills, and learning about creative ways to offer financial support on GALDEF’s ‘Ways to Give’ page.

Since the 1940s, U.S. legal defense and education funds serving African-Americans, Latinos, women, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants and others have been instrumental in advancing human and civil rights and have played a key role in effecting social change.

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