



Mazer v. District of Columbia Department of Health (D.D.C.)

Topics Covered: COVID-19, Public Health

Issue

The issue in this case is whether a D.C. law permitting young people eleven years of age or older to receive a vaccine without their parents' consent or knowledge is lawful.

AMA Interest

The AMA supports state policies allowing minors to override their parent's refusal for vaccinations. Further, it encourages state legislatures to establish comprehensive vaccine and minor consent policies.

Case Summary

In this case, the plaintiff challenging the D.C. law is a Maryland parent who claims his teenage daughter traveled to D.C. to be vaccinated, despite her family's religious objections. Upon arriving to the physician's office, the complaint alleges the physician "coached [her] on lying in relation to receiving the shots."

The teenager ultimately did not receive any of the vaccines, but the parent alleges that the physician did not provide his daughter with a vaccine information statement (VIS) legally required under the 1986 Vaccine Injury Act. The statement, provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, outlines potential risks of vaccines.

Litigation Center Involvement

The Litigation Center and Medical Society of the District of Columbia joined the American Academy of Pediatrics and others in an *amicus* brief supporting the law.

United States District Court for the District of Columbia Brief