



Good v. Iowa Department of Human Services, 924 N.W.2d 853 (Iowa 2019)

Topics Covered: Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ Rights)

Outcome: Favorable

Issue

The issue in this case was whether a regulation of the Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Administrative Code § 441.78.1(4), which categorically banned Medicaid coverage for “[p]rocedures related to transsexualism ... [or] gender identity disorders” was valid.

AMA Interest

The AMA recognizes that medical and surgical treatments for gender dysphoria are medically necessary and will advocate for medically necessary care for gender dysphoria.

Case Summary

Erieanna Good and Carol Beal were both designated as male at birth. While young children, they each recognized that they had female gender identities. Their gender dysphoria caused them severe depression and anxiety. They separately applied to the Iowa Medicaid Program for gender reassignment surgery, but they were refused care because of Regulation § 441.78.1(4).

Good and Beal appealed their denials to the Iowa District Court, which consolidated their cases. The only issue in their appeals was whether Regulation § 441.78.1(4) is valid. The district court, after considering extensive medical testimony on the nature of gender dysphoria, held that Regulation § 441.78.1(4) violates the Iowa Civil Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause of the Iowa Constitution.

The Iowa Department of Human Services then appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court, which affirmed the trial court ruling that Regulation § 441.78.1(4) violates the Iowa Civil Rights Act. The Supreme Court did not rule on the constitutional question.

Litigation Center Involvement

The Litigation Center joined the Iowa Medical Society in an amicus brief to the Iowa Supreme Court. The brief argued for affirmance of the trial court holding that Regulation § 441.78.1(4) is invalid.

Supreme Court of Iowa brief