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High court asked to decide sperm donor parental rights



Does a sperm donor have parental rights to the children ultimately conceived with his donation?

That is what a Kansas man wants to U.S. Supreme Court to decide.

He petitioned the Court to review a ruling by Kansas' highest court that a law denying parental rights to sperm donors absent a written agreement with the child's mother is constitutional.

“This is a very significant case, not only for the world of fathers’ rights, but also for the rights and fair treatment of children,” Jeffrey Leving, a Chicago attorney and national parents’ rights advocate representing donor Daryl Hendrix, told the Associated Press. “Many fathers are criticized for not being there. Here we have a father who wants to help, but he was cut off at the knees.”

Hendrix was not an anonymous donor - he was friends with the mother of the child or a number of years before agreeing to be a donor. The mother maintains that she intended to be a single mother. Most anonymous donors at sperm banks sign a waiver of parental rights, so the case would have no bearing on those situations, should the Court agree to take it up.

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