

# Florida Parents Now Suing to Block Drag Show Near Playground

Three Florida parents are taking action to protect the innocent children who frequent a local playground that has now become the site for “a proposed, grossly inappropriate, and sexually explicit drag show,” a non-profit legal group reports.

Liberty Counsel has filed a motion on behalf of three Collier County parents to help keep the obscene LGBTQ performance show indoors and for adults only at an upcoming June “pride” festival.

The nonprofit legal group had previously filed an amicus brief in Naples Pride v. City of Naples but is now seeking “party status” to directly defend parents’ rights to shield their children from indecent material and uphold Florida Law.

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In April, the Naples City Council voted 5-2 to move the proposed drag show indoors away from Cambier Park, which is frequented by children, and to restrict the event to adults only.

However, Naples Pride, an LGBT advocacy group, and the ACLU sued the city, claiming it violated their First Amendment rights by moving the event. The ACLU sought a preliminary injunction to overturn the city’s location and age restrictions.

Earlier this month, a preliminary injunction hearing took place in U.S. District Court, where the city of Naples offered

only one defense to its restrictions on the drag show, Liberty Counsel explained in a press statement.

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“The city noted that Cambier Park, which has a children’s playground a mere 100 feet away from where Naples Pride wants to hold its drag show, is a limited public forum where permits are subject to reasonable and viewpoint neutral criteria,” the group said in the statement.

“While this is true, Liberty Counsel argues this defense leaves out more significant arguments that would require the court to deny the injunction in the interest of protecting children,” it continued.

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They point out that Florida’s “Protection of Children Act” of 2023 expressly outlaws public drag shows held in view of minors.

“Allowing a drag performance in open air and in full view of a busy children’s playground would violate Florida law,” Liberty Counsel said, noting that although a federal judge narrowly blocking enforcement of that law for a single Florida agency, it is being appealed and therefore “does not erase or suspend” the law itself.

The group says the city failed to challenge Naples Pride’s description of the drag show as “family friendly,” and provided photos of a 2022 event held by the group just 100 feet from the playground that shows otherwise.

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