

St. Joseph's cites religious freedom in response to transgender man's suit

Catholic League in the news: NORTHJERSEY.COM

The St. Joseph's Healthcare System said in federal court papers that a Totowa transgender man's lawsuit against it threatens its freedom of religion as a Roman Catholic health provider. The lawsuit was filed days after a federal judge in Texas temporarily blocked federal regulations that extend anti-discrimination protections to transgender patients. Some groups, like the Catholic League, have said the new rules would force some hospitals run by religious groups to perform procedures that might violate their beliefs.

St. Joseph's filed the papers on Friday in response to a federal anti-discrimination lawsuit brought last month by a transgender man who said the hospital refused to allow his surgeon to perform a hysterectomy on him at any of its facilities after he was given a go-ahead by hospital staff.

Jionni Conforti, 33, alleged in the lawsuit that St. Joseph's violated federal and state anti-discrimination laws, requested that the health care system be ordered to change its policies, and asked for monetary damages to be determined at a trial.

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