

CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In the Matter of the Complaint of:

THE NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS,

Complainant,

— against —

NYU LANGONE HOSPITALS,

Respondent.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Complaint No. M-P-AS-25-151777

NATURE OF THE ACTION

The New York City Commission on Human Rights (“Commission”) brings this action against Respondent NYU Langone Hospitals (“NYU Langone”) for violating § 8-107(4) of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the New York City Human Rights Law (“NYCHRL”). The NYCHRL requires providers of public accommodation in New York City to offer every person the full and equal enjoyment, on equal terms and conditions, of any of the accommodations, advantages, services, facilities or privileges of the place or provider of public accommodation.

The Commission alleges Respondent has ceased providing gender-affirming medical care to transgender or gender-nonconforming minors based on their gender identity and age. The Commission alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

The Commission initiates this Complaint pursuant to NYCHRL § 8-109(c). The effects of the alleged unlawful policies and practices described in this complaint occurred in the City of New York.

PARTIES

1. The Commission's address is 22 Reade Street, New York, NY 10007.
2. Respondent is a provider of public accommodation as defined by NYCHRL § 8-102. Respondent's address for service of process is NYU Langone Hospitals, Office Of The General Counsel, 550 First Avenue - HCC 15, New York, NY, 10016. Its business address is 550 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

FACTS

3. Respondent provides gender-affirming medical care through its Transgender Youth Health Program. *See* Exhibit A (NYU Langone Health, Transgender Youth Health Program, <https://nyulangone.org/locations/transgender-youth-health-program>).
4. On or about February 1, 2025, Respondent cancelled appointments for at least two transgender or gender-nonconforming persons under the age of nineteen (19) seeking gender-affirming medical care. *See* Exhibit B (Joseph Goldstein, *N.Y. Hospital Stops Treating 2 Children After Trump's Trans Care Order*, N.Y. TIMES, February 1, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/01/nyregion/nyu-langone-hospital-trans-care-youth.html>).
5. Upon information and belief, Respondent NYU Langone cancelled the appointments based on the patients' ages and gender identities.
6. Upon information and belief, Respondent NYU Langone has changed its policies and practices to not offer services related to gender-affirming medical care to transgender or gender-nonconforming persons under the age of nineteen (19).

CHARGE I

7. Complainant incorporates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 6 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

8. The Commission charges that Respondent has unlawfully discriminated against transgender and gender-nonconforming persons by refusing to provide previously scheduled medical care because of their gender identity, in violation of § 8-107(4)(a)(1) of the NYCHRL.

CHARGE II

9. Complainant incorporates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 6 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

10. The Commission charges that Respondent has unlawfully discriminated against transgender and gender-nonconforming persons younger than nineteen (19) years of age by refusing to provide previously scheduled medical care because of their age, in violation of § 8-107(4)(a)(1) of the NYCHRL.

CHARGE III

11. Complainant incorporates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 6 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

12. The Commission charges that Respondent has unlawfully discriminated against transgender and gender-nonconforming persons by directly or indirectly making a declaration, to the effect that full and equal enjoyment, on equal terms and conditions, of Respondent's services would be refused, withheld from or denied to them on account of their gender in violation of § 8-107(4)(a)(2) of the NYCHRL.

CHARGE IV

13. Complainant incorporates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 6 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

14. The Commission charges that Respondent has unlawfully discriminated against transgender and gender-nonconforming persons under the age of nineteen (19) by directly or

indirectly making a declaration, to the effect that full and equal enjoyment, on equal terms and conditions, of Respondent's services would be refused, withheld from or denied to them on account of their age in violation of § 8-107(4)(a)(2) of the NYCHRL.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests judgment against Respondent as follows:

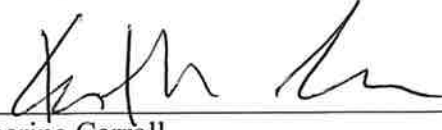
- a) Declaring that Respondent's acts, practices, and omissions complained of herein violate the Code;
- b) Enjoining Respondent and its agents, employees, successors, and all other persons in active concert or participation from further violating the Code;
- c) Enjoining Respondent and its agents, employees, successors, and all other persons in active concert or participation from coercing, intimidating, threatening, or interfering with, or attempting to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with a person in the exercise or enjoyment of rights granted and/or protected under the Code;
- d) Directing Respondent to pay civil penalties; and
- e) Awarding such other and further relief as the Commission deems just and proper

[NO FURTHER TEXT ON THIS PAGE]

Katherine Carroll, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the Deputy Commissioner of the Law Enforcement Bureau of the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the Complainant herein; I have read the foregoing Complaint and know the content thereof; the same is true of my own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated on information and belief; and, as to those matters, I believe the same to be true.

Dated: New York, NY
February 28, 2025



Katherine Carroll
Deputy Commissioner
Law Enforcement Bureau
New York City Commission on Human Rights
22 Reade Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Exhibit A

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Welcome to the

Transgender Youth Health Program

[Schedule an Appointment](#)

Phone: 212-263-5940 x5

We provide affirming healthcare for transgender and gender diverse youth and their families.

When your child or teenager identifies with a gender other than the one assigned at birth, your commitment to their health and wellbeing takes on new meaning. The team at the Transgender Youth Health Program recognizes and understands the unique healthcare and psychosocial challenges gender-diverse youth may experience as they grow.

We provide personalized [medical care and emotional support](#) to help them during this stage in their lives. In recognition of our commitment to providing respectful and affirming care for LGBTQ+ children, adolescents, and their families, [Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone](#) has been designated an LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader by the [Human Rights Campaign Foundation](#), the nation's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy group. We are the first and only children's hospital in New York City to earn this designation.

Our pediatric endocrinologists, adolescent medicine specialists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and support staff are specially qualified to provide gender-affirming care for your child. This includes puberty suppression, hormone therapy, and social and emotional support.

As part of Hassenfeld Children's Hospital, we use a holistic approach that addresses the needs of the entire family. We work with your child as they mature, and when they are emotionally and developmentally ready we transition them to NYU Langone's [adult transgender health services](#) for continuing care.



Our Services for Transgender Youth

Gender-affirming medical care is provided by board-certified [adolescent medicine](#) and [pediatric endocrinology](#) specialists. Our clinical psychologists and social workers provide evaluations for gender-related medical care, parent and caregiver consultations, psychological assessments, and counseling. Our certified [child life specialists](#) support your child and family on issues related to transgender care, including understanding treatment and helping children express their thoughts and emotions.

We can also refer your child to NYU Langone gender-affirming pediatricians and, for older teens and young adults, fertility specialists and dermatological care. We can provide outside referrals for legal services and assistance with name and gender marker changes. We can also connect you with community mental health services and support groups.

More About the Transgender Youth Health Program

Medical Care & Emotional Support

We meet the medical and psychosocial needs of gender-diverse and transgender youth.



Recognition

Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone is designated an LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

[Learn More >](#)

More About the Transgender Youth Health Program

Medical Care & Emotional Support

We meet the medical and psychosocial needs of gender-diverse and transgender youth.



Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone

Our pediatric experts provide the best care possible for children with conditions ranging from minor illnesses to complex, more serious conditions.

[Learn More >](#)

Our Related Programs and Services

Gender and Sexuality Service

Our team includes experts in mental healthcare for children.

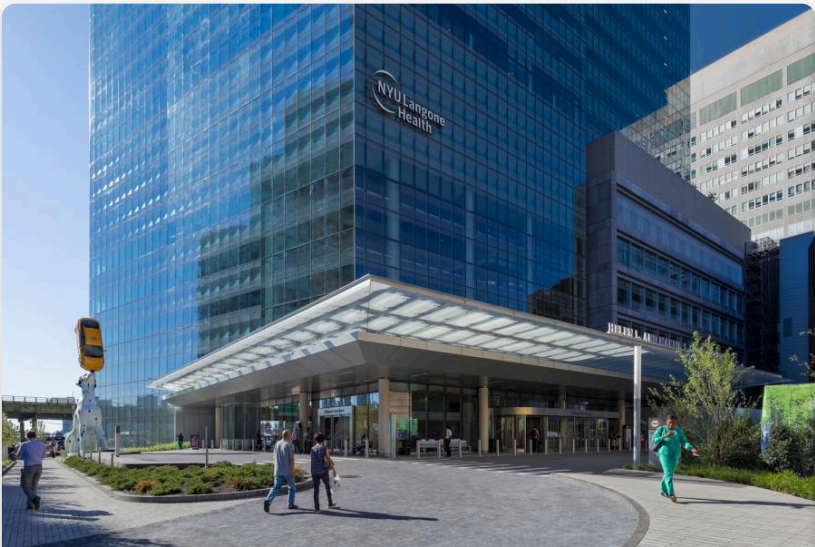
[Learn More >](#)

Sala Institute for Child and Family Centered Care

We provide support services and resilience programs that focus on the health and wellbeing of children and families.

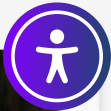
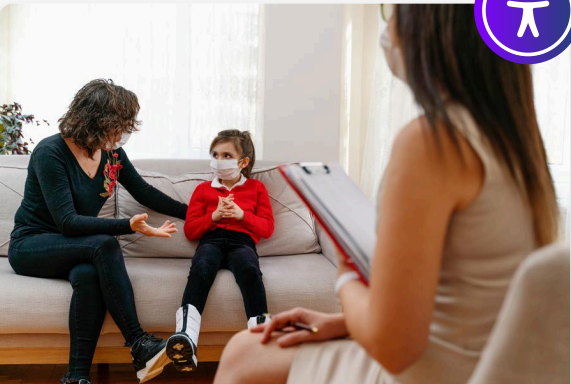
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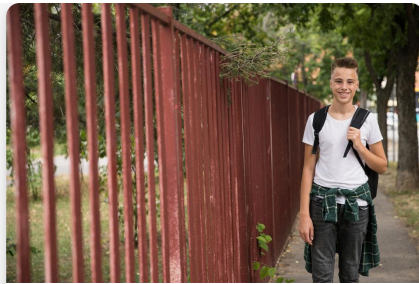
NYU Langone Recognized as Leader in LGBTQ+ Health Equity

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Gender-Affirming Care Is Lifesaving Care

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What Are Puberty Blockers?

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We can help you find a Hassenfeld Children's Hospital doctor. Call **646-929-7970 or
browse our specialists.**



Exhibit B

N.Y. Hospital Stops Treating 2 Children After Trump's Trans Care Order

The hospital canceled their appointments the same week an executive order from President Trump threatened to punish doctors and hospitals for offering gender-affirming care.



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By Joseph Goldstein

Feb. 1, 2025

A leading New York City hospital system has begun canceling appointments for transgender children following President Trump's executive order threatening to withhold federal funding to hospitals that provide gender-affirming treatments, according to the children's parents.

The hospital system, NYU Langone Health, has not made any public announcements. But word spread among parents of trans children after the hospital canceled appointments for two 12-year-olds who had been scheduled to receive implants that dispense puberty-blocking medication.

The father of one of the children said his child's doctor had told him that because of "the new administration" — a reference to Mr. Trump's executive order — the hospital would not be able to proceed with the procedure. The child had been due on Thursday to have a small device that would release Supprelin LA, a puberty-blocking medication, implanted in the upper arm. The father said the doctor suggested that they try calling other hospital systems in New York City or one the doctor recommended in Philadelphia.

The second 12-year-old was scheduled to have the same procedure on Friday. That child's mother said she was informed that her child's appointment was canceled on Wednesday, one day after the executive order was issued. When she asked why, she said, she was told that the medical team was "awaiting more guidance."

A spokesman for NYU Langone Health, Steve Ritea, declined to comment, saying he did not have any information he could share. NYU Langone is one of several major medical centers in the city with transgender health programs for youth and adolescents. About 3 percent of teenagers ages 13 to 17 in New York State said they are transgender, about twice the national average, according to one recent survey.

The executive order at issue is one of a flurry that President Trump has issued regarding gender and trans issues in his first two weeks in office. It takes aim at doctors and hospitals who provide trans youth under the age of 19 with gender-affirming medical treatment, which can include puberty blockers, hormone therapy and surgery.

"It is the policy of the United States that it will not fund, sponsor, promote, assist or support the so-called 'transition' of a child from one sex to another," the executive order states, "and it will rigorously enforce all laws that prohibit or limit these destructive and life-altering procedures."

One of Mr. Trump's other executive orders addressed "restoring biological truth to the federal government" by, among other provisions, requiring federal prisons to house transgender women in men's facilities. Another order seeks to stop schools from recognizing trans identities.

The order restricting gender-affirming care follows similar bans already passed by more than two dozen states, according to the Human Rights Campaign. Many of the bans are being challenged in court. Broader questions about medical treatment for young people who are seeking to transition have been the subject of debate in the United States and Europe.

Hospitals in New York City have been consulting with their lawyers to understand what this order means for their programs that provide medical care to trans children, according to officials at two hospital systems who declined to be quoted for this article.

One threatened consequence for hospitals and medical schools is the loss of significant federal research funding. The federal government provides research funds to major medical institutions. The order directs the government to ensure that institutions receiving such funding stop “the chemical and surgical mutilation of children,” which is how the order describes “gender-affirming care” for youth.

There is also the threat of prosecution and lawsuits. The order specifically directs the Justice Department to examine whether a federal law against female genital mutilation can be applied to some gender-affirming surgeries. That law was passed with another goal in mind: to outlaw the cutting of the clitoris or labia among girls of immigrant families in the United States. Rites of passage involving female genital cutting are common in some parts of the world.

At one clinic that provides gender-affirming care to trans youth, a doctor has been telling his patients that he will continue to provide them with puberty blockers and hormone therapy, even if it means prosecution.

“I’m willing to go to jail to continue to provide your care,” Dr. Jeffrey Birnbaum said he had been telling his young trans patients and their parents since the executive order. A pediatrician at the state-run University Hospital of Brooklyn, Dr. Birnbaum said he saw roughly 75 trans patients, including many teenagers.

A father of one of Dr. Birnbaum’s patients, Mark Armstrong, said the executive order had left his 14-year-old panicked that she would not be able to get the next shot of puberty-blocking medicine in March.

For some children with gender dysphoria — distress over the mismatch between their gender identity and their birth sex — puberty blockers can help them navigate their feelings and identity, reducing depression and distress, experts say.

“It decreases their dysphoria,” Dr. Birnbaum said, adding that the blockers have made some of his patients feel “less suicidal.”

Mr. Armstrong, a theater director who lives in Brooklyn, said he was relieved to hear that Dr. Birnbaum intended to continue his daughter’s treatment. “Obviously, there is a lot of free-floating anxiety in the trans parent community,” he said.

The mother of the second 12-year-old whose procedure at NYU Langone was canceled said that her child, who identifies as nonbinary, had begun puberty last year and that it had caused her child distress. The child had previously received an injection of puberty blockers, but had been scheduled to get an implant that would last for a year.

The mother said she was devastated that her child’s medical care was canceled over fear of retribution by the government. She and her family had been calling other hospitals and doctors in the hope of finding one that might treat the child. “I don’t think we have a lot of options,” the mother said.

Joseph Goldstein covers health care in New York for The Times, following years of criminal justice and police reporting. [More about Joseph Goldstein](#)

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 16 of the New York edition with the headline: After Order on Trans Care, New York Hospital Cancels 2 Children’s Appointments