



The Satanic Temple Threatens Legal Action if School District Hits Children

Temple warns Round Rock, TX School District corporal punishment and seclusion violate their members' rights.

Salem, Massachusetts: In response to video footage showing a Round Rock ISD administrator throwing a student into a secluded room, The Satanic Temple's Protect Children Project has sent a letter to the superintendent and district school board informing them that student members of The Satanic Temple (TST) are exempt from corporal punishment, seclusion, and restraint. The Satanic Temple claims that these physical punishments violate their member's civil rights.

In April 2022, an incident occurred at the GOALS Learning Center (part of Round Rock ISD) after 13-year-old student Quintin Proctor was removed from class and sent to a "calm down room." [Surveillance footage](#) shows Proctor being violently thrown by a school administrator into solitary confinement, where he falls and hits his head on the wall. "I mean, it hurt," Proctor said. "I came home, and I had this lump on my head... Since then, it's been really hard for me to go there." The video later shows the same school administrator putting Proctor in a restrained position on the floor of the room.

This drew the attention of the Protect Children Project – The Satanic Temple's campaign that addresses physical and psychological abuse. According to the Department of Education, these practices are extremely common. The Protect Children Project works to ensure TST members claim religious exemption from egregious forms of mistreatment in school, including corporal punishment, seclusion, physical restraint, and denial of bathroom access. TST asserts that abusive discipline violates its members' religious belief in bodily autonomy.

In addition to being a violation of its religious beliefs, The Satanic Temple considers corporal punishment to be unethical and ineffective policy. "Numerous scientific studies show that corporal punishment not only harms children mentally, emotionally, and physically but also does not instill the intended effect on academic performance and behavior," noted TST co-founder Malcolm Jarry. "Students who are subjected to violence masquerading as discipline typically experience adverse consequences, and the psychological scars rarely heal."

Protect Children Project's Campaign Director, Eliphaz Costus, sent a certified letter to Superintendent Dr. Hafedh Azaiez and the Round Rock ISD School Board, officially putting them on notice. "The Satanic Temple is taking preemptive action to ensure that our student members in the Round Rock school district are protected from abusive practices that violate their religious beliefs and civil rights," states Costus. "Now that the school district has been made aware, students who disclose their religious affiliation with TST are exempt from corporal punishment. To ignore this will open the door to civil and possibly criminal liabilities."

Costus added, "We have been contacting school districts all over the country regarding the rights of our student members. If you are a TST member experiencing physical or psychological abuse in school or simply want to take preemptive action, contact us at pcp@thesatanictemple.com, and we will put your school district on notice."



THE SATANIC TEMPLE

About The Satanic Temple

The mission of The Satanic Temple is to encourage benevolence and empathy among all people, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense and justice, and be directed by the human conscience to undertake noble pursuits guided by the individual will.

For further questions, contact karen@thesatanictemple.com.