

Indiana RFRA lawsuit: ACLU says new law restricting sex offenders violates RFRA

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INDIANAPOLIS -- A new state law banning some sex offenders from school grounds violates Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday.

The new law in question says any "serious sex offender" who intentionally enters school property commits a Level 6 felony.

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The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on behalf of two Indiana men -- John Doe 1 from Allen County and John Doe 2 from Elkhart County -- whose places of worship are located on school property.

"The men wish to attend church services without fear of being arrested, because church attendance and group prayer are essential to their ability to worship in a meaningful way," the ACLU wrote in a statement Thursday, also noting that school is not in session during the church services.

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The suit says the new restrictions violate Indiana's new RFRA law and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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