

Chiles v. Salazar

Case Name: Chiles v. Salazar

Case Status: Case to be argued at the Supreme Court in Fall 2025.

Significance: Whether a state can censor counselors from expressing viewpoints their client wants to help them achieve their personal goals.



Background: Kaley Chiles is a licensed counselor in Colorado who talks with clients about various issues, including gender identity and sexual orientation. Kaley sees her work as an outpouring of her Christian faith, and numerous clients come to her because they share her religious beliefs. These clients believe that their lives will be more fulfilling if aligned with the teachings of their faith. But in 2019, Colorado enacted a law banning counselors from speaking certain views about gender and sexuality to their clients under the age of 18. That law tells counselors that they may not speak messages during counseling conversations to help young people who want to work through their gender dysphoria by growing more comfortable with their biological sex. But the law allows counselors to encourage those kids to reject their biological sex. That is an unconstitutional restriction on private counseling conversations. Any counselor who speaks the forbidden messages could face steep penalties—up to \$5,000 for each violation, possible suspension from practice, and even revocation of the counselor’s license. ADF represents Kaley Chiles, and the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case in the fall of 2025.

Key Points

- Kaley works only with willing clients, and she helps them achieve the goals they set for themselves. Colorado’s law says that counselors like Kaley cannot help kids resolve their gender dysphoria by counseling them to regain comfort with their God-given sex—even when the kids want that help. Instead, counselors may only encourage kids to pursue a so-called “gender transition.”
- Struggling kids benefit from counseling to accept their bodies. They deserve better than Colorado’s law, which only allows counseling that pushes kids one step closer to harmful drugs and surgeries. The counseling Kaley provides can help give struggling kids the care they deserve.
- All who choose to live consistent with their biological sex deserve the help of counselors like Kaley as they work through that process.

Key Facts

- Colorado threatens Kaley with fines of up to \$5,000 per violation, suspension from practice, and revocation of her license.
- Colorado’s law allows counselors to help kids with a so-called “gender transition” that rejects their biological sex. But it bans counselors from helping struggling kids be comfortable with their biological sex.
- Twenty-seven states already protect children from harmful drugs and procedures that alter their healthy bodies to make them look like the opposite sex.

The Bottom Line: Kids shouldn’t be forced into one-size-fits-all treatment when they’re looking for help. They deserve real support, not state-approved talking points.