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Mom from Hays scores important first-round victory in occupational licensing lawsuit

Bryn Green is one step closer to opening her dream business after judge clears the way for sugaring lawsuit

Hays, Kansas—A constitutional lawsuit from Bryn Green will move forward after a [Shawnee County judge denied](#) an attempt to dismiss Bryn’s case. With the help of [Kansas Justice Institute](#), Bryn [sued the Kansas Board of Cosmetology](#) over its irrational and arbitrary occupational licensing requirements involving sugaring. Sugaring is an ancient grooming technique that uses a mixture of sugar, lemon juice, and water to safely remove unwanted hair.

In Kansas, even though sugaring is safe, the Board of Cosmetology requires 1,500 hours of instruction in expensive schools for a cosmetology license. It is estimated that 99% of the cosmetology curriculum teaches things other than sugaring.

“This is a great first-round victory for Bryn and puts her one-step closer to achieving her dream of starting a sugaring business,” KJI Litigation Director Sam MacRoberts said. “People shouldn’t be forced to spend tens of thousands of dollars on irrelevant cosmetology school, and take irrelevant examinations, just to be able to use sugar, lemon juice, and water, to safely remove unwanted hair,” MacRoberts said. “It shouldn’t be a crime to safely use sugaring paste to remove unwanted hair. There’s no good reason for the government to force someone to attend thousands of hours of irrelevant and expensive schooling for something that is already safe,” MacRoberts continued. “We’re really excited we get to keep fighting for Bryn’s right to be free from irrational government rules,” MacRoberts said.

To help support her family, [Bryn wants to start a sugaring business in Hays](#), her hometown. Sugaring would also allow her greater flexibility in raising her son. But in Kansas, it is a crime to practice unlicensed sugaring, and Bryn is not licensed.

“Sugaring is an entirely safe and natural process, it’s been around for centuries,” said Bryn, “it is ridiculous to me that the requirement is to spend thousands of dollars, tens of thousands of dollars, and thousands of hours to obtain a license that I am literally going to use 1% of,” Bryn continued.

Over the decades, occupational licensing has exploded even though, as [President Obama’s Administration](#) determined, “most research does not find that licensing improves quality or public health and safety.”

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Represented at no charge by [Kansas Justice Institute](#), Bryn is suing the Kansas Board of Cosmetology to vindicate her rights, and the rights of all Kansans, to be free from unreasonable government regulations.

This case is part of KJI's litigation efforts to make it easier for families to earn honest livings. In 2019, KJI successfully sued the State of Kansas over its [raw milk advertising prohibition](#); in 2020, KJI sued the State over its occupational licensing requirement involving [eyebrow threading](#); and in 2023, KJI sued the City of Ottawa, Kansas, over its home-based business prohibitions involving [beekeeping and gardening](#).

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