

Teen to continue fight to find father

■ Appeals court says mom doesn't have to reveal who his biological dad is; boy wants to know health history.

BY STEVE PARDO
The Detroit News

The attorney representing the Fraser teen suing his mother to reveal his biological father vows to continue the fight, despite the most recent court decision against his client.

Fraser

Michigan Court of Appeals judges this week upheld a lower court decision that said the 18-year-old — “Minor J” in court documents — doesn’t have the standing to bring paternity action against his mother.

“The issues presented relate more to social policy, and the making of social policy is generally for the Legislature, not this court,” the ruling read.

Henry Baskin, the Birmingham attorney representing the teen, said his client has a right to know about the medical history of his biological father.

“Science is moving at an overwhelming speed and justice continues to grind slowly,” Baskin said.

He plans to take the case to the Michigan Supreme Court.

“What’s more important than justice?” he asked.

Alicia Putman, the Eastpointe attorney representing Minor J’s mother, said it is a difficult case.

Last April, a lawsuit was filed on behalf of Minor J that said DNA tests taken in 2004 by the teen’s mother and the man he thought was his biological father — “Mr. J” in court filings — proved that the man was not his biological father.

The boy’s mother — “Diane J” in court filings — and Mr. J divorced in 1995 after 13 years of

marriage. Minor J was born in 1989. The pair shared custody of Minor J and the boy now lives full time in Fraser with Mr. J, who supports the lawsuit.

According to Michigan law, the husband at the time of conception and birth is deemed to be the legal father in Michigan.

Baskin argued that it is Minor J’s constitutional right to obtain the information.

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