

The *Queen of Angels Catholic Bookstore* Case

Case Name: *Queen of Angels Catholic Bookstore v. Jacksonville*

Case Status: Filed in the U.S. District Court for Middle District of Florida

Significance: Whether the government may use gender ideology to control speech they disagree with.



Background: Queen of Angels Catholic Bookstore has operated without issue for almost twenty years in Jacksonville, FL. Queen of Angels sells books, crucifixes, and other Catholic resources and serves as a religious resource to the public. Christie DeTrude bought the bookstore in 2017, and she strives to honor God and promote her Catholic beliefs, including through the store's website and YouTube channel. Queen of Angels hand-picks each item sold in the store and on the website to ensure that it contributes to the bookstore's theme and mission. As a result, the bookstore declines to sell items that conflict with or do not adequately promote the Catholic faith. Christie and her staff at Queen of Angels serve all people and demonstrate the love of Christ through their work, gladly selling any of their products to anybody. However, the bookstore cannot adopt policies and affirm ideologies that are contrary to the Catholic faith. A Jacksonville law requires businesses to use pronouns that reflect customers' professed gender identity. The law even forbids businesses from posting statements someone could see as unwelcoming, such as a statement explaining Christie's belief that biological sex is immutable. The city is not only restricting speech but trying to force Christie and her employees to speak messages inconsistent with their faith. If Christie or an employee refuse to comply with the gender identity law, Queen of Angels will be threatened with unlimited fines and damages. Alliance Defending Freedom represents the Queen of Angels Catholic Bookstore in a lawsuit filed to protect Christie's freedom to speak and run the bookstore according to her Catholic faith.

Key Points

- Queen of Angels is a distinctly religious business that speaks and practices its faith in the marketplace.
- No government should stifle the diversity of ideas by ordering bookstores to speak messages they disagree with or silence them from sharing their religious beliefs.
- The First Amendment protects people like Christie and the freedom to express messages that others may oppose.

Key Facts

- Christie wants to publish blog posts on her store's website explaining Catholic beliefs on gender and sexuality, but the Jacksonville law forbids her actions.
- Christie's store is available for community members to come ask questions about the Catholic faith and serves as a beacon of Catholic faith to the community.

The Bottom Line: Americans should be free to say what they believe without fear of government punishment.