



News Release
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Court Halts Bryan, Ohio Harassment of Dad’s Place

Mayor’s actions single out church serving community by keeping doors open 24/7 to anyone in need of shelter, assistance.

Toledo, OH—A district court judge today granted a temporary restraining order against city officials in Bryan, OH, seeking to shut down the religious activities of Dad’s Place and Pastor Chris Avell. Avell faces nearly two dozen criminal charges for keeping his church open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Yesterday, First Liberty Institute and the law firms Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP and Spengler Nathanson PLL filed a federal lawsuit and motion for a temporary restraining order.

You can read the order, [here](#).

“Pastor Chris is greatly relieved that he will not have to close the doors of Dad’s Place and force people into the cold streets,” said Jeremy Dys, Senior Counsel for First Liberty Institute.

Ryan Hiepler, associate at Burke Law Group PLLC added, “We are grateful to the court for recognizing the urgent need to restore power and the burden that was being imposed on Heimish’s free exercise of religion.”

“We love our community and have been more than willing to work with city officials to get the power to our synagogue restored. Our congregation will be delighted that they will be able to join together again,” said Michael Winkler, who is a founding member of the synagogue and owns the property.

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About First Liberty Institute

[First Liberty Institute](#) is the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to defending religious freedom for all Americans.

To arrange an interview, contact Peyton Luke at media@firstliberty.org or by calling 972-941-4453.