



**For Immediate Release**

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**Motion for Class Certification Filed in Children’s Mental Health Lawsuit**  
*Supports for vulnerable citizens*

**Lansing, MI** – On April 11, 2022, Disability Rights Michigan (DRM), The National Health Law Program, Mantese Honigman, P.C., and John Conway, P.C. filed a motion seeking to certify a class consisting of tens of thousands of Michigan children with disabilities who need, but are not receiving, intensive home and community-based Medicaid services. The lawsuit seeks to expand access to community-based mental and behavioral health services for children in Michigan. Plaintiffs filed their First Amended Complaint in February, which added multiple new class representatives from across the state.

“The motion for class certification is a major procedural step toward protecting the rights of children with mental and behavioral health needs in Michigan,” said Nick Gable, Senior Attorney at DRM. “Class certification will ensure that all children who need these services, as opposed to just the named Plaintiffs, benefit from a favorable outcome in the lawsuit.”

The parties entered into an interim settlement agreement on August 4, 2020. In that agreement, the State assumed responsibility for planning a new package of intensive child and adolescent services. The State agreed the services would be individualized to each child, available to children in a timely manner, and in the amount, scope, and duration necessary to meet the individual needs of eligible children and their families. The State also committed to operating a behavioral health system that is child-centered and family-driven, team-based, home and community-based, culturally relevant, and outcome-based. Negotiations in the case continue.

“This class contains some of the most vulnerable, high need people in the State,” said Kyle Williams, Director of Litigation at DRM. “It’s of the utmost importance the proposed class members get the services and supports they need if we want to give them a chance at life in the community. This is a big part of realizing that goal.”

[Link to case documents](#)

*Disability Rights Michigan (DRM) is the independent, private, nonprofit organization designated by the governor of the State of Michigan to advocate and protect the legal rights of people with disabilities in Michigan.*

[www.drmich.org](http://www.drmich.org).

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