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Federal Judge Temporarily Blocks Trump Birthright Policy

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Credit: Leah Millis/Reuters

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A federal judge has issued a temporary injunction against President Donald Trump’s executive order aiming to limit birthright citizenship, putting the policy on hold just weeks before it was set to take effect.

United States District Judge Joseph Laplante, presiding in Concord, New Hampshire, ruled that the measure could inflict what he described as “irreparable harm” on children born in the United States to parents who are neither citizens nor lawful permanent residents.

The executive order, signed on the president’s first day back in office in January, directed federal agencies to deny automatic citizenship to these children unless at least one parent held legal status.

The American Civil Liberties Union, known as the ACLU, led the lawsuit alongside several advocacy groups critical of the administration’s immigration policies. Judge Laplante permitted the plaintiffs to proceed as a class, thereby allowing the ruling to apply nationwide.

According to reporting by NBC News, the judge called birthright citizenship “the greatest privilege that exists in the world,” underscoring the significance of the constitutional guarantees at stake.

While advocates for the executive order contend that it addresses longstanding concerns about immigration loopholes and national security, opponents have argued it violates the Fourteenth Amendment. The American Civil Liberties Union hailed the injunction as a necessary check on what it characterised as an “unconstitutional and cruel” policy.

The judge’s decision includes a seven-day stay, granting the federal government an opportunity to appeal before the policy’s scheduled implementation on July 27. The administration has not yet announced whether it will pursue immediate appellate review, but the issue is likely to remain a flashpoint in the broader debate over citizenship and immigration enforcement.