

Judge grants injunction in Hobby Lobby case

July 19 2013

(AP)—A federal judge is temporarily exempting Hobby Lobby Inc. from a provision in the new federal health care law that requires it to offer insurance coverage for the morning-after pill and similar birth control or face steep fines.

After hearing brief arguments Friday, U.S. District Judge Joe Heaton issued a [preliminary injunction](#) for the Oklahoma arts and crafts chain. The judge stayed the case until Oct. 1 to give the federal government time to consider an appeal.

The Christian owners of Hobby Lobby and the Mardel Christian bookstore chain argue that their religious beliefs are so deeply rooted that having to provide every form of birth control would violate their conscience.

The hearing comes several weeks after a federal appellate court ruled Hobby Lobby was likely to win its case.

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