

U.S.

Autistic Boy in Girl's Bathroom Angers Theater: It's Not 'Transgender'

BY **MATTHEW IMPELLI** ON 7/27/23 AT 5:40 PM EDT



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New Jersey movie theater called the police on a 15-year-old autistic boy after his mother brought him to the women's bathroom, with the manager telling the mother, "This is not a transgender bathroom."

On Tuesday, Christine Gallinaro filed a lawsuit against the Cinemark movie theater in Hazlet, New Jersey, saying that she was harassed and discriminated against after taking her 15-year-old [autistic](#) son, who cannot use the restroom alone, to the women's restroom at the theater.

According to the lawsuit, which was provided to *Newsweek*, there were no family bathrooms at the movie theater and after Gallinaro took her son to the women's restroom, she was told by the manager, Nicole J. Nicolet, that her son shouldn't be in there.

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said.

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Public restrooms. On Tuesday, July 25, 2023, a woman in New Jersey filed a lawsuit against a movie theater after she was kicked out for taking her autistic son to the woman's restroom.

IRKIEV/GETTY

Following the comments about the restroom not being a "[transgender](#) bathroom," Gallinaro's lawyer, Armen McOmber, told *Newsweek* on Thursday, "That's not what this was about."

"The problem is, this person, this manager, wasn't trained, didn't understand what she was looking at..barked at them," McOmber told *Newsweek*.

According to McOmber, after Gallinaro and her son were told to leave, the manager left

the area and an assistant manager, who was named in the lawsuit as Defendant Brandon M. Mansueto, eventually called the police to the theater.

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The lawsuit states that Mansueto told Gallinaro that he "didn't agree" with what Nicolet did and that he was "not with her."

"As a direct result of the foregoing harassing and discriminatory conduct, Defendants have not only ruined Plaintiffs' beloved pastime of attending Corporate Defendants' Hazlet location, but also, irretrievably traumatized Minor Plaintiff J.G.," the lawsuit said.

According to McOmber, despite the manager's response, others in the movie theater had no issue with Gallinaro taking her son into the women's bathroom and one woman inside the restroom smiled at them.

Theater Calls Police on Autistic 15-Year-Old: 'Transgender Bathroom'

The Cinemark logo hangs above one of the company's theaters on December 04, 2020. A woman in New Jersey recently filed a lawsuit saying she was harassed by Cinemark employees after they removed her from the theater for taking her autistic son to the woman's bathroom.

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY

"It's just ridiculous. What should have happened, there should have been some trace of human intelligence and compassion," McOmber told *Newsweek*. "Some trace of human compassion and intelligence to understand this is the situation. This is a mom who is trying to help her kid go to the bathroom. That's it, that's all that had to happen."

The lawsuit states that "Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor and against Defendants on this Count, together with compensatory and equitable relief, punitive

damages, pre-and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs of suit, and for such other relief that the Court deems equitable and just."

McOmbler told *Newsweek* that "I think the message here is at this point in our civilization and the laws we have here in New Jersey, the behavior of this manager and the behavior of this company is just not acceptable and it's hard enough being a mom to an autistic kid...without having your kid being humiliated and yelled at for trying to go to the bathroom."

"Either train your people appropriately or we're not putting up with it. They should apologize, they should train their people appropriately and they should deal with the situation," McOmbler told *Newsweek*.

Newsweek reached out to Cinemark via email for comment on the lawsuit.

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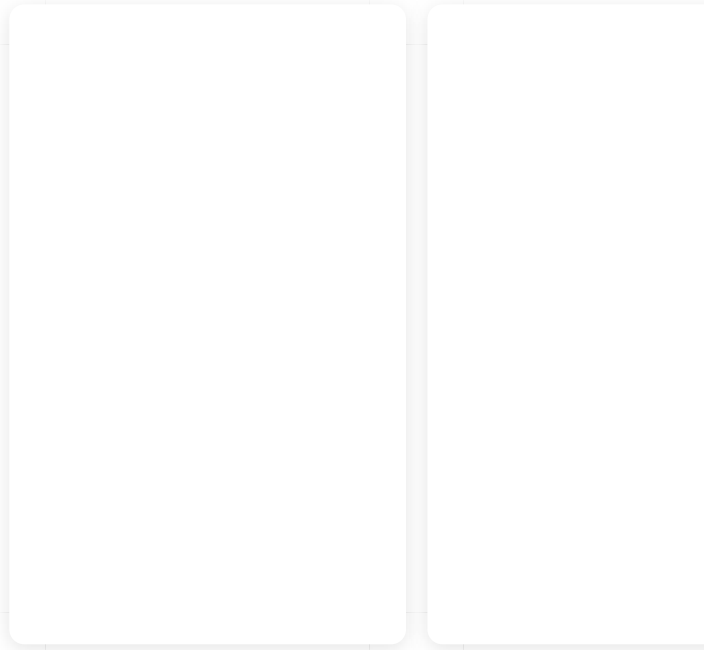
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First question - How autistic and disabled was the kid?
Second question - What is wrong with the manager?

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Guessing a single Mom with no Dad in the household to get him to the men's room. We all need to show some compassion here.

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Women take their boy children into a woman's bathroom all the time. Same with a girl who has to go into the men's room because she is with her daddy. This manager needs to be fired for discrimination.

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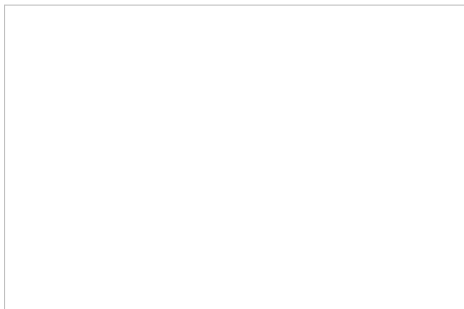


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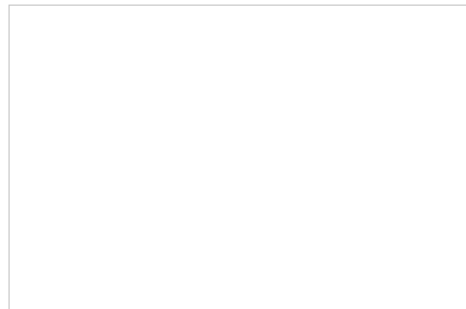
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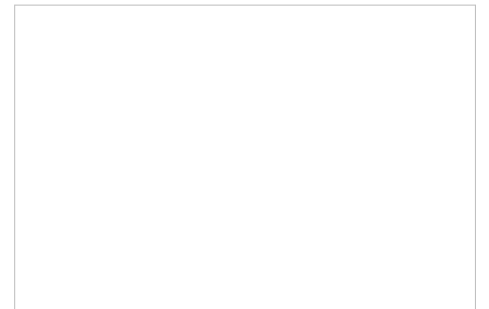
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