



BMV NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BMV Asks Judge to Reconsider Ruling on Personalized License Plates

INDIANAPOLIS – Don Snemis, Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) issued the following statement announcing the BMV’s decision to ask the Judge to reconsider a portion of his ruling in the case of *Rodney G. Vawter, et al. v. Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles*:

“The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles has filed a Motion to Correct Error in the lawsuit concerning our Personalized License Plate (PLP) Program. In that case, the court held that Indiana’s PLP statutes, as well as applicable regulations and policies, are unconstitutional.

We respectfully disagree with this holding, and will appeal that ruling at the appropriate time. However, the issue of immediate concern is the portion of the court’s order requiring the BMV to reinstate the program, despite the conclusion that it is unconstitutional, under a new regulatory scheme created by the court. The court’s new rules would require the BMV to issue personalized plates that contain messages offensive to one’s race, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. We disagree that the statute is unconstitutional, but if that is the ultimate finding of the courts, then the legislature would be the proper avenue to create a new personalized license plate system, not the judiciary.”

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