

In a significant legal development, President Donald Trump's executive order aiming to end birthright citizenship has been blocked by four federal judges. This highlights the ongoing constitutional debate surrounding this issue.

Background

On January 20, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order 14160, titled “**Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship**.” This order sought to deny U.S. citizenship to children born on American soil if neither parent is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. The administration argued that this measure was necessary to address what it perceived as a “loophole” encouraging illegal immigration.

Judicial Responses

The executive order faced immediate legal challenges from immigrant rights groups and a coalition of 18 state attorneys general. As of February 13, 2025, four federal judges have issued nationwide injunctions blocking the order's implementation:

1. **Judge John C. Coughenour (Washington State):** Issued a temporary restraining order on January 23, 2025, calling the executive order “blatantly unconstitutional.”
2. **Judge Deborah Boardman (Maryland):** Granted a preliminary injunction on February 5, 2025, stating that the order conflicts with the 14th Amendment and over a century of legal precedent.
3. **Judge Joseph N. Laplante (New Hampshire):** Issued an injunction on February 10, 2025, reinforcing the constitutional guarantee of birthright citizenship.
4. **Judge Leo Sorokin (Massachusetts) blocked the order on February 13, 2025,** emphasizing that the 14th Amendment guarantees citizenship to nearly all individuals born on U.S. soil.

Constitutional Considerations

The 14th Amendment, adopted in 1868, states: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States.” This

clause has been historically interpreted to grant citizenship to anyone born on U.S. soil, regardless of parental citizenship status. The Supreme Court's 1898 decision in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* affirmed this interpretation, ruling that children born in the U.S. to foreign parents are U.S. citizens.

The Trump administration contends that the 14th Amendment has been misinterpreted and that its original intent was not to grant citizenship to the children of non-citizens or unauthorized immigrants. However, federal judges have consistently rejected this argument, citing constitutional text and longstanding legal precedent.

Implications and Future Outlook

The nationwide injunctions prevent the executive order from taking effect while legal challenges proceed. The Department of Justice is expected to appeal these rulings, potentially fast-tracking the issue to the Supreme Court. Legal experts suggest that, given the clear constitutional language and historical interpretations, the executive order faces significant hurdles in the judiciary.

This legal battle underscores the tension between executive actions and constitutional protections, particularly concerning immigration policy. As the situation develops, it will serve as a critical test of the balance of powers and the resilience of constitutional guarantees in the face of shifting political agendas.

How Lunel Law Can Assist

Navigating the complexities of immigration law requires informed and proactive legal strategies. At Lunel Law, we offer:

- **[Deportation Defense](#)**: Our experienced attorneys provide robust representation to individuals facing removal proceedings, ensuring their rights are protected throughout the process.
- **[Litigation and Appeals](#)**: For those adversely affected by recent policy shifts, we offer services to challenge unjust decisions through appeals and federal court litigation.
- **[Naturalization Assistance](#)**: Guiding clients through the process of obtaining U.S. citizenship, ensuring all legal requirements are met.

Staying informed is crucial. We recommend regularly consulting trusted legal advisors and monitoring official channels for updates. At Lunel Law, we are dedicated to guiding you through these complexities with expertise and compassion. Our team remains vigilant in monitoring policy changes to provide you with timely and effective legal solutions.

For personalized assistance and to discuss your specific situation, please [contact us](#) to schedule a consultation.

Sources:

- Attorney General James Challenges Unconstitutional Executive Order on Birthright Citizenship - ag.ny.gov
- Another federal judge blocks Trump's order ending birthright citizenship - pbs.org
- Federal Court Blocks Trump Birthright Citizenship Executive Order - aclu.org