

The Burger Court Opinion Writing Database

Little v. Streater

452 U.S. 1 (1981)

Paul J. Wahlbeck, George Washington University
James F. Spriggs, II, Washington University in St. Louis
Forrest Maltzman, George Washington University



To: Mr. Justice Brennan
 Mr. Justice Stewart
 Mr. Justice White
 Mr. Justice Marshall
 Mr. Justice Blackmun
 Mr. Justice Powell
 Mr. Justice Rehnquist
 Mr. Justice Stevens

From: The Chief Justice

Circulated: MAY 19 1981

1st DRAFT

Recirculated: _____

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 79-6779

Walter Little, Appellant, | On Appeal from the Appellate
 v. | Session of the Superior Court of
 Gloria Streater. | Connecticut.

[May —, 1981]

CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER delivered the opinion of the Court.

This appeal presents the question whether a Connecticut statute, which provides that in paternity actions the cost of blood grouping tests is to be borne by the party requesting them, violates the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment when applied to deny such tests to indigent defendants.

I

On May 21, 1975, appellee Gloria Streater gave birth out of wedlock to a female child, Kenyatta Chantel Streater. As a requirement stemming from her child's receipt of public assistance, appellee identified appellant Walter Little as the child's father to the Connecticut Department of Social Services. See Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-169 (1981). The Department then provided an attorney for appellee to bring a paternity suit against appellant in the Court of Common Pleas at New Haven to establish his liability for the child's support.¹

At the time the paternity action was commenced, appellant was incarcerated in the Connecticut Correctional Institution at Enfield. Through his counsel, who was provided by a

¹ While the case was pending, the Court of Common Pleas was merged with the Superior Court of Connecticut. See Conn. Gen. Stat. § 51-164a (1981).

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE WM. J. BRENNAN, JR.

May 20, 1981

RE: No. 79-6779 Little v. Streater

Dear Chief:

I agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brennan", written in dark ink.

The Chief Justice

cc: The Conference

✓
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE POTTER STEWART

May 19, 1981

Re: No. 79-6779, Little v. Streater

Dear Chief,

I am glad to join your opinion for
the Court.

Sincerely yours,

P.S.
/

The Chief Justice

Copies to the Conference

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE BYRON R. WHITE

May 20, 1981

Re: No. 79-6779 - Little v. Streater

Dear Chief:

Please join me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Byron", written in dark ink.

The Chief Justice

Copies to the Conference

cpm

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL

May 21, 1981

RE: No. 79-6779 - Little v. Streater

Dear Chief:

Please join me.

Sincerely,

TM.
T.M.

The Chief Justice

cc: The Conference

✓
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE HARRY A. BLACKMUN

May 27, 1981

Re: No. 79-6779 - Little v. Streater

Dear Chief:

Please join me.

Sincerely,

HAB.

The Chief Justice

cc: The Conference

✓
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE LEWIS F. POWELL, JR.

May 20, 1981

79-6779 Little v. Streater

Dear Chief:

Please join me.

Sincerely,

Lewis

The Chief Justice

lfp/ss

cc: The Conference

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST

May 27, 1981

Re: No. 79-6779 Little v. Streater

Dear Chief:

Please join me.

Sincerely,



The Chief Justice

Copies to the Conference

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE JOHN PAUL STEVENS

May 19, 1981

Re: 79-6779 - Little v. Streater

Dear Chief:

Please join me.

Respectfully,



The Chief Justice

Copies to the Conference