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New Jersey Cheerleader Sues Her Own Parents To Force Them To Pay For College



AMANDA MACIAS

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A New Jersey honor student has filed an unusual lawsuit against her own parents, claiming they cut her off financially when she turned 18, [the Daily Record](#) reports.

Rachel Canning, 18, a cheerleader at Morris Catholic High School, claims her parents kicked her out of their home and refused to pay for her college tuition.



Rachel Canning

New York CBS Local

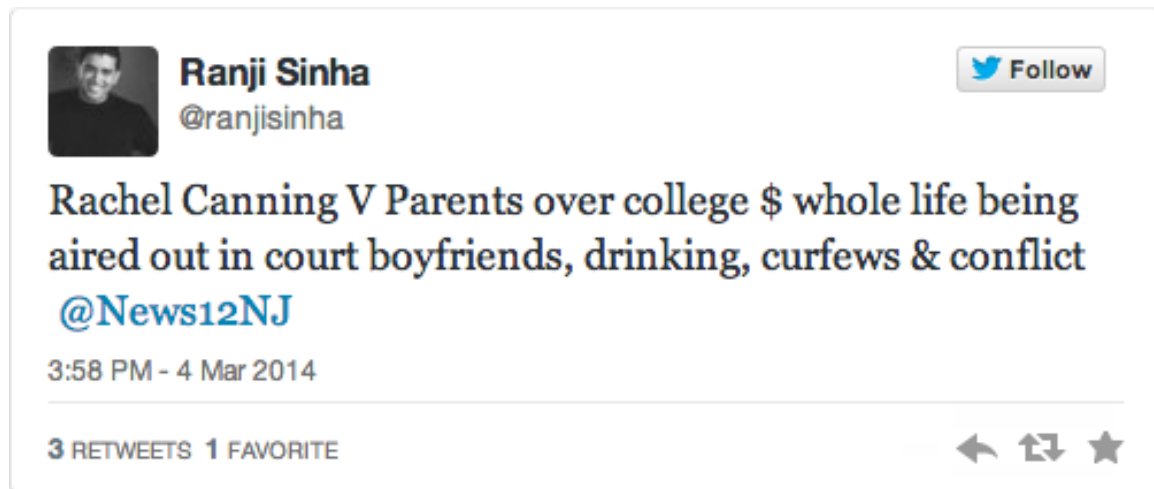
Her lawsuit — which is funded by the lawyer father of one of the teen's friends — seeks immediate financial support from her parents and an order requiring them to pay for her college.


Things don't look good for her, [ABC News reports](#). On Tuesday afternoon, a New Jersey family court judge ruled that her parents don't have to pay for her private high school tuition.

The judge delayed the ruling on whether her parents have to pay for college tuition until April 22. However, Judge Peter Bogaard asked lawyers to consider whether it's wise to "establish precedent where parents live in fear of establishing rules of the house." The judge also suggested that everybody get counseling.

Wearing her Morris Catholic High School uniform, Rachel Canning sat at the same table with her parents with their respective lawyers sitting in between them.




During the almost 2.5 hour hearing, a series of harsh emails and voice messages were read as local reporters tweeted from the courtroom.



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Silvana Raso, a family law attorney at [Schepisi & McLaughlin](#) in New Jersey weighed in on the case earlier today in an interview with Business Insider.

"Since this is an intact family in that the parents are not getting divorced, they have the absolute right, in my opinion, to make a decision not to pay for their daughter's college education," Raso said.

As long as a child's basic needs are being met, Raso said, it would have been unusual for a court to order the parents to continue paying the child's private school tuition.

Sean Canning, Rachel's father and a former police chief, has said Rachel didn't get kicked out and in fact ran away from home in November because she did not want to follow simple rules like sticking to a curfew and doing chores.

"We are being sued by our child. I'm dumbfounded. So is my wife and so are my other daughters," Sean Canning told [CBS in a television interview](#). Her parents also deny her allegations that they're refusing to pay for college.

"We have a college fund that's available to her and there's no doubt about that. But it's the equivalent of going shopping at a

high-end store and sending somebody the bill,” her father told CBS.

However, Rachel says her parents are just making excuses, telling the Daily Record they've "rationalized their actions by blaming me for not following their rules."

“They stopped paying my high school tuition to punish the school and me and have redirected my college fund, indicating their refusal to afford me an education as a punishment,” she added.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/rachel-canning-sues-her-parents-2014-3>