

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

DANIELA ARROYO GONZÁLEZ; VICTORIA RODRÍGUEZ-ROLDÁN; J.G.; and PUERTO RICO PARA TOD@S,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

RICARDO ROSSELLÓ-NEVARES, in his official capacity as Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; RAFAEL RODRÍGUEZ-MERCADO, in his official capacity as Secretary of the Department of Health of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and WANDA LLOVET-DÍAZ, in her official capacity as Director of the Division of Demographic Registry and Vital Statistics of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,

*Defendants.*

Civil No. 3:17-cv-01457-CCC

**DECLARATION OF DANIELA ARROYO GONZÁLEZ IN SUPPORT OF  
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

I, Daniela Arroyo, being of legal age and sound mind, do hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am a plaintiff in the above-captioned action. I am also a Board member of Puerto Rico Para Tod@s, an organizational plaintiff in this lawsuit. I have actual knowledge of the matters stated in this declaration.

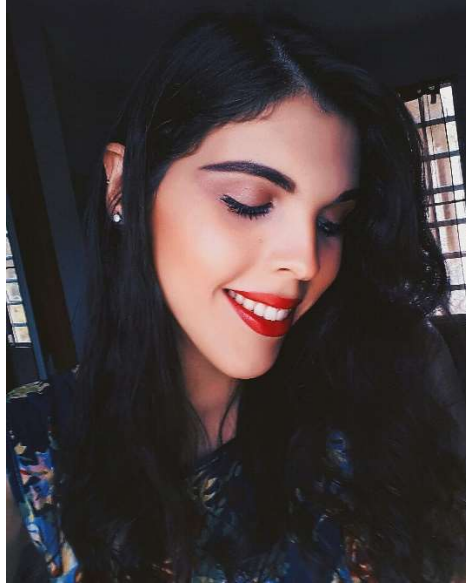
2. I am 18 years old. I was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico and currently reside in Moca, Puerto Rico.

3. I just graduated high school from Escuela Superior Catalina Morales de Flores and plan to attend college in Puerto Rico to study psychology.

4. I am a woman.

5. I am also transgender. I was incorrectly designated “male” on my birth certificate, even though I am, in fact, a woman.

6. Below is a picture of me:



7. Throughout my childhood and early adolescence, I experienced profound discomfort with being assumed to be a boy by others.

8. As early as around the age of 3 years old, I knew and felt that I was a girl. Growing up, I was interested in toys and activities that would traditionally be associated with girls and would dress and act in traditionally feminine ways.

9. I was raised as a boy and pushed into dressing and acting “like a boy.” And though I had never questioned that I was a girl, I began asking myself “why is my body different [from other girls]?” and “why do I have to act differently than who I am?”

10. Despite social pressures and the discomfort and distress I felt by being assumed to be a boy, I knew that I was a girl. And as a young girl, I told my family that I was indeed a girl.

11. I felt shame and discomfort when I graduated from the ninth grade and was called by the name I was given at birth, which was one traditionally associated with the sex I was incorrectly assigned at birth.

12. Around the age of 14 years old, I told my mom that I was transgender.

13. After my mother and I educated ourselves, and with the support of my family, at the age of 14 years old, I began to socially and medically transition in order to align my lived experience and body characteristics with my gender identity.

14. In 2013, I was diagnosed with gender dysphoria. In consultation with my medical and mental health professionals, in 2016, I began to undergo medically necessary treatment, specifically hormone therapy, to relieve my gender dysphoria and bring my body into alignment with my gender identity. The steps I have taken in my transition have brought my outside appearance into alignment with my female identity so that the general public sees me as the woman I am.

15. In addition undergoing medically necessary treatment for my gender dysphoria, I have sought to align my whole lived experience with my gender identity.

16. As I started aligning my lived experience with my true self, I faced discrimination and harassment in school.

17. As I started my sophomore year, I began wearing a female uniform to my high school.

18. However, my high school denied me the ability to use the restroom consistent with my female gender identity. As a result, fearing for my safety and well-being, I was forced to exit school every time I needed to use a bathroom, and used the bathrooms in a private establishment across the street.

19. In 2016, after I advocated for three years, my school finally stopped forcing me to use the boy's restroom. Nonetheless, the school still unlawfully denied me the ability to use the restroom consistent with my female gender identity, in part, because Puerto Rico's Birth Certificate Policy prohibits me from correcting the gender marker on my birth certificate.

20. In addition, cognizant of how transgender people, particularly transgender youth, regularly suffer discrimination, violence, and harassment in Puerto Rico, and based in part on my own experiences, I co-founded, along with Raymond Rohena Pérez, the Puerto Rico Trans Youth Coalition, an organization dedicated to provide a safe space and network for transgender youth in Puerto Rico and which counts with over 200 participants, in 2015.

21. In February 2017, I legally changed my name from the traditionally male name I was given at birth to my current traditionally female name.

22. In March 2017, I began the process to correct the name and gender marker in my identity documents, including my driver's license, Social Security records, and birth certificate, so that my identity documents would accurately reflect my identity and true sex as female.

23. I am aware that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has a policy and practice that categorically prohibits transgender persons, like me, from correcting the gender marker in their birth certificates so that the birth certificates may accurately reflect their sex, as determined by their gender identity (hereinafter the "Birth Certificate Policy").

24. Because of Puerto Rico's Birth Certificate Policy, I am prohibited from correcting the gender marker in my birth certificate. As a result, my birth certificate and other identification documents are incongruent with each other.

25. Because I turned 18 years old after the November 2016 elections, I have not had an opportunity to vote. I am aware of several instances in which transgender people have been

denied voter identification cards that accurately reflect their identity because they were unable to correct the sex on their birth certificates. Upon information and belief, in order to vote in primaries and general elections in Puerto Rico, voters must present their voter identification cards at the voting polls.

26. I am stigmatized and harmed by Puerto Rico's Birth Certificate Policy. I need my identity documents to be congruent with who I am—a woman—and I believe that my identity should be recognized and respected by the Commonwealth.

27. I reasonably fear that possessing a birth certificate that fails to accurately reflect my sex, as determined by my gender identity, increases the chances that I will be subjected to discrimination, harassment, or violence.


28. As a result of Defendants' Birth Certificate Policy, my current Puerto Rico birth certificate reflects the sex I was incorrectly assigned at birth, erroneously stating that I am male.

29. Being denied a birth certificate that accurately reflects my sex, as determined by my gender identity, is psychologically and emotionally harmful for me and I am faced with the persistent reminder that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico does not respect me for who I am and I am kept in fear of what may happen the next time I have to show my birth certificate to a stranger.

30. Puerto Rico's Birth Certificate Policy subjects me to potential physical harm, particularly as a young transgender woman residing in Puerto Rico.

31. I wish to correct my birth certificate which currently indicates that my sex is male, to accurately reflect my sex as female, as determined by my gender identity.

Signed under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States this 21 day of  
June 2017.

  
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Daniela Afroyo González