

WHITE SUPREMACIST SEEKS DISMISSAL OF FAMILY'S SUIT

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Lawyers for white supremacist Matthew Hale and the World Church of the Creator on Thursday filed a motion in Cook County Court asking for the dismissal of a lawsuit filed by victims of the 4th of July weekend shooting spree of Benjamin Smith, one of Hale's followers.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of 15-year-old shooting victim Ephraim Wolfe and his family, seeks to hold Hale and his church liable for Smith's shooting rampages in Illinois and Indiana. The lawsuit alleges that Hale, a self-described racist, inspired Smith's actions by preaching anti-Semitic, hateful views and calling for a "holy war against minorities."

Hale's New York-based attorney, Glenn Greenwald, has requested that the lawsuit be dismissed "on the ground that Hale has the 1st Amendment right to express his anti-Semitic and racist views, regardless of how extreme or unpopular those views may be."

The motion compares the effort to silence the rhetoric of white supremacists like Hale to the tactics "employed by Southern states in the 1950s and 1960s to silence the unpopular group of that era, the NAACP."

The lawsuit against Hale, filed in August, also names as defendants the parents of Benjamin Smith and Donald Fiessinger, the man who allegedly sold Smith the illegal weapons used in his crimes.

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