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# "Choose Life" plate debate could move to court

**AP** Associated Press

June 3, 2006

HARTFORD, Conn. --A pro-adoption foundation that sponsors "Choose Life" license plates says it will sue if Connecticut officials do not reinstate its specialty markers.

The state Department of Motor Vehicles recently stopped issuing "Choose Life" plates to motorists while it investigates with state Attorney Richard Blumenthal whether The Children First Foundation meets the state's guidelines to sponsor such plates.

Specifically, they are reviewing questions raised by Democratic state Rep. Roberta Willis over whether the group has a "significant Connecticut presence," one of the criteria to sponsor a specialty plate in the state.

The state motor vehicles department approved the group's request in 2003 to sponsor the specialty plates. About 200 of the "Choose Life" plates have been issued in Connecticut.

The foundation's co-founder and president, Elizabeth Rex of Yonkers, N.Y., said Friday that the group will sue in federal court if Connecticut fails to reinstate its license plate sponsorship status.

The foundation, which is headquartered in Eastchester, N.Y., says it uses money raised by the specialty plates to help pro-adoption and family-friendly causes in the region.

It already has pending lawsuits in New York and New Jersey over those states' failure to authorize "Choose Life" plates.

Its Connecticut base is at the home of a group board

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member in the Gales Ferry section of Ledyard.

The plates, which started in Florida, have spawned controversy among some participants in the abortion debate nationwide.

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