Michigan Gov. Loses Again to 77-Year-Old Barber as Judge Rules Shop Can Stay Open

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Owosso, Michigan: A judge ruled that Karl Manke will not have to close his shop because the state has failed to prove he was an imminent danger to public health. The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs suspended Manke's license without a hearing.

Karl Manke, a 77-year-old barber in Owosso, Michigan, has defeated Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel in court for the second time in about a week.

The *Argus-Press* reported:

> *Judge Matthew Stewart ruled that Karl Manke will not have to close his shop after the state again failed to prove he was an imminent danger to public health.*
>
> *Stewart said the state did not arrest Manke when he was cited, so he didn't represent "an imminent health danger."*

"(The attorney general) has not presented any studies underlying the doctor's conclusion. (The attorney general) has not shown any nexus between the cutting of hair and an increased risk of transmission," Stewart wrote, the *Detroit Free Press* reported.

"(The attorney general's) filings rest more on general facts about COVID-19 than specific practices or conditions at (Manke's) business."

Nessel's office said she would appeal the ruling.

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs suspended Manke's license without a hearing.

"It's an unbelievable abuse of power," attorney David Kallman told radio host Steve Gruber, stating there is no legal basis for the action.

“This is pure retribution by the governor’s office and by the AG. This is so petty and vindictive, it’s beyond the pale,” Kallman said.

After her defeat, Nessel attacked Manke publicly.

We want him to discontinue his conduct, which we think is aiding and abetting the spread of the virus,” Nessel claimed.

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