

BOISE, FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026, AT 11:15 A.M.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

STATE OF IDAHO,)	
)	
Plaintiff-Respondent,)	
)	
v.)	Docket No. 52919
)	
KADIE M. KAWANO,)	
)	
Defendant-Appellant,)	
_____)	

Appeal from the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District of the State of Idaho, Ada County. Patrick J. Miller, District Judge.

Karin V. Sowieja, Idaho Liberty Defense, PLLC, Boise, for Appellant.

Raúl R. Labrador, Idaho Attorney General, Boise, for Respondent.

Kadie M. Kawano appeals the district court’s denial of her motion to suppress. On January 8, 2024, Kawano gave birth to her daughter, Z.L., at St. Alphonsus in Boise. Shortly after delivery, staff at St. Alphonsus obtained a sample of umbilical cord blood, which tested positive for Methamphetamine, Fentanyl, and Methadone. By this time, Z.L. had been transferred to St. Lukes. Once St. Lukes was informed of this situation, a social worker at St. Luke’s reported the case to Health and Welfare Children and Family Services. Law enforcement then used the reported information to arrest Kawano and charge her with two counts of felony possession.

Kawano moved to suppress the evidence obtained from the blood sample taken from the umbilical cord. She argued that it was obtained during an illegal search because St. Alphonsus was a state actor when the hospital took the blood sample. She also asserted that Idaho’s unique jurisprudence affords heightened and independent protections on the disclosure of medical records. The district court disagreed and denied Kawano’s motion to suppress. Kawano now appeals to this Court, arguing that the district court erred by failing to adopt and correctly apply the coercion and compulsion test from *Kirtley v. Rainey*, 326 F.3d 1088 (9th Cir. 2003). She also argues that the district court erred by not treating her motion as a request to prohibit the State from using her medical records against her, pursuant to Idaho Code section 9-420(4).