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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

9 June 2009

# **Call for Immigration Dept to Protect Unborn Child**

Family First NZ is calling on the Immigration Department to show compassion to a heavily pregnant Lithuanian mother whose unborn child, and her own health, will be put at risk if she is forced to leave the country.

“This does not appear to be a family deliberately out to flout the laws,” says Bob McCoskrie, National Director of Family First NZ. “The complications in the pregnancy are outside of their control and because of this, the Immigration department should grant a waiver.”

“The family is willing to leave as soon as the health of the mother and baby permits and to pay for their medical care so they are not being a drain on the health system.”

“Immigration laws are necessary to prevent deliberate overstaying and the flouting of visitors permits.

“This family is simply a victim of an unforeseen medical condition and the government should demand that the Immigration Department show compassion and extend their visitor’s permit,” says Mr McCoskrie. “The life of the unborn child should take priority over the letter of the law.”

**ENDS**

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***For More Information and Media Interviews, contact Family First:***

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