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Family fights to keep their 4-year-old on life support

MIAMI (WSVN) -- The devout Jewish family of a brain dead 4-year-old girl insist on keeping her on life support, but doctor's say Florida law will not allow them.

Aliza Schwab has been on life support at Jackson Memorial Hospital for about two weeks since a near drowning in her family's pool. Several doctors have declared the little one brain dead, and claim that, by Florida law, the girl has to be taken off life support. "She's my daughter and I love her, and I'll do anything I can to keep her here with me, even if I have to go the farthest mile for it. Whatever it is, I'm willing to do it for her," said Esther Schwab, the girl's mother.

Holtz Children's Hospital released a statement standing behind their care: "Our hearts go out to the Schwab family during this very difficult time. As always, Holtz Children's Hospital is committed to providing the highest quality medical care possible to all patients who enter our doors. The medical staff at Holtz, along with the pediatric bioethics committee, has been working with and informing the Schwab family on every aspect of the care delivered to their child."

The family refuses to abide that law and says that their religious beliefs dictate that for as long as the young girl has a heartbeat, she still has a life worth holding on to. "All the parents are asking for is the possibility to hope and the opportunity to have that hope actualized in trying to keep Aliza alive," said Menachem Mayberg, the family's attorney.

The family is now making a public plea to anyone or any facility that would like to help keep Schwab on life support under their medical vigilance to please contact their attorney.

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