

Costa Rica to regulate IVF after long row

23 July 2015

Costa Rica's president will issue a decree to regulate in vitro fertilization (IVF) after a long legal battle, he said Wednesday.

President Luis Guillermo Solis said his office will issue regulations by September to comply with a regional court ruling by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

"I am going to take action since I do not want Costa Rica to face sanctions a second time" over failure to comply with the November 2013 ruling, Solis said.

Costa Rica, a mostly Catholic Central American nation that takes pride in its respect for civil liberties, has long been the only country in the Americas that bans the procedure.

Costa Rica has a date with the court September 3 to explain how it is complying with the ruling lifting the ban on the [reproductive technology](#).

But its lawmakers, who should normally issue the regulations, will not be able to make the deadline given the still-controversial nature of the procedure, Solis said.

In vitro fertilization was banned in Costa Rica in 2000 under pressure from the Catholic Church. Some opposing couples sued the government over the ban.

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