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Cultural rights in South Africa: the case of an amputated finger in polydactyly

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Abstract

In this research report I address the question: should an individual be allowed to take their amputated finger away from a healthcare facility where the amputation would have been performed for a medically justifiable indication in polydactyly, for the sole purpose of performing a cultural ritual called *Ingqithi*?

I navigate the delicate balance between harm and the benefits that could result from cultural rituals. With *Ingqithi* as my springboard, I argue for a weak cultural relativism stance, emphasizing that culture is a prima facie right, with its respect being indispensable for human dignity.