

Zoey Runia

WOAH

### **Influencer on Trial: The Lawsuit Over the Loss of Smell**

**Frederick - March 13, 2026-** Courtroom 5A in the Larimer County Justice Center became the scene of a negligence lawsuit against popular influencer Riley Quinn. Seeking nearly \$60,000 in damages, plaintiff Jordan Peterson claims that following a hack Quinn promoted for a product called TheraBloom led to irreparable physical damage.

The proceedings began with a critical pre-trial motion regarding requests of each side such as: Permission to wonder the well freely during examinations, and Permission to present deonstratives.

Throughout the trial, the judge navigated frequent procedural battles, sustaining several hearsay objections as the legal teams sparred over evidence regarding the plaintiff's medical connections.

The trial's emotional core emerged during Peterson's direct examination by Isabel Gottlieb. He recounted the events of February 10, 2025, when using TheraBloom as instructed caused an immediate burning sensation and difficulty to breathe. Seven months later, he was diagnosed with permanent anosmia, or loss of smell, ending his dreams of becoming a professional chef.

"I really don't know what my future will look like, honestly, I just feel lost," Peterson testified with visible emotion.

His mother, Taylor Peterson, described the "terrifying scene" of the injury and noted that \$15,000 in medical bills had already drained her retirement savings. Dr. Sam Chen added that

Peterson endured twelve weeks of persistent pain before the official September 1, 2025, diagnosis.

Defense attorney Anna Hill countered by entering Exhibit 8, the TheraBloom label, which explicitly stated the product was “For oral consumption only,” arguing Peterson acted unreasonably.

To challenge the cause of injury, medical expert Casey Torres testified that the permanent damage was likely linked to a separate three-month sinus infection Peterson suffered during the seven-month period preceding his diagnosis.

Riley Quinn defended her role by introducing Exhibit 6, an email showing she had requested an ingredient list before posting. However, cross-examination revealed Quinn used water and food coloring in her promotional video and failed to independently research the product’s safety.

To undermine damages, Peterson’s cousin, Emmerson Vale, testified Jordan was already losing interest in cooking before the incident. “First and foremost, I am here to tell the truth,” Vale stated. In closing, Isabel Gottlieb warned of “deceptive influence,” while Selle Strawbridge used a storybook-style structure to argue Quinn was not responsible for Peterson’s choices.