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Aid for boy to fight appeal

LEE KA-MING, the seven-year-old boy at the centre of a "David and Goliath" deportation row, has been granted legal aid to fight a High Court appeal.

Legal Aid Department spokesman Tony North said Lee was granted legal aid last week to fight an appeal submitted by the Government.

The appeal is expected to be heard in March.

In August Justice Bokhary ruled Ka-ming, the son of an illegal immigrant mother, did not have to be deported to China because he was born in Hongkong and had lived here for seven years -

although three months of that time was spent in his mother's womb.

In what has been described as a David and Goliath battle, the Government appealed against Bokhary's decision.

Ka-ming spent five months in custody with his mother at Victoria Prison earlier this year. His mother, Yuen Tsui-lin, remains in Victoria Prison pending deportation to the mainland.

Lawyers have criticised the Government for its decision to appeal, especially in light of recent claims that the Basic Law allows right of abode to Chinese citizens born in Hongkong.