

# John Casor

**John Casor** was the first person of African descent, to be made a [slave](#) for life, in a court ruling. In 1662, the Virginia Colony passed the legal principle, *Partus sequitur ventrem*, which said children would have the legal status of their mother. If their mother was a slave, they would be slaves, regardless of their father's race or status.<sup>[1]</sup> This was in contradiction to English [common law](#) for English subjects, which based a child's status on that of the father.

## References

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1. [↑ Taunya Lovell Banks, "Dangerous Woman: Elizabeth Key's Freedom Suit - Subjecthood and Racialized Identity in Seventeenth Century Colonial Virginia", 41 Akron Law Review 799 \(2008\), Digital Commons Law, University of Maryland Law School, accessed April 21, 2009](#)

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