

## **Policy Statements, Laws, and Studies Regarding GLBT Parents**

*Compiled by The GLBT Youth Support Project*

### **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**

“Current research shows that children with gay and lesbian parents do not differ from children with heterosexual parents in their emotional development or in their relationships with peers and adults. It is the quality of the parent/child relationship and not the parent’s sexual orientation that has an effect on a child’s development. Contrary to popular belief, children of lesbian, gay, or transgender parents:

- Are not more likely to be gay than children with heterosexual parents.
- Are not more likely to be sexually abused.
- Do not show differences in whether they think of themselves as male or female (gender identity).
- Do not show differences in their male and female behaviors (gender role behavior).”

*Children with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Parents. AACAP; August 2006*

### **American Academy of Pediatrics**

“Children who are born to, or adopted by, one member of a gay or lesbian couple deserve the security of two legally recognized parents... There is a considerable body of professional literature that suggests children with parents who are homosexual have the same advantages and the same expectations for health, adjustment and development as children whose parents are heterosexual.”

*“AAP says children of same-sex couples deserve two legally recognized parents.” American Academy of Pediatrics News Release; Feb. 14, 2002.*

### **National Association of Social Workers**

"Legislation legitimizing second-parent adoptions in same-sex households should be supported. Legislation seeking to restrict foster care and adoption by gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people should be vigorously opposed."

*Policy Statement of The National Association of Social Workers (2002), from Social Work Speaks, Sixth Edition, NASW Policy Statements, 2003-2006.*



**The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth Project**  
A program of Health Care of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc.  
[www.hcsm.org/glys](http://www.hcsm.org/glys) \* (800) 530-2770 x229 \* [glys@hcsm.org](mailto:glys@hcsm.org).

### **American Psychological Association**

“The sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation of natural or prospective adoptive or foster parents should not be the sole or primary variable considered in custody or placement cases.”  
*Resolutions Related to Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues*. American Psychological Association; 1976.

### **American Psychiatric Association**

“The APA supports initiatives which allow same-sex couples to adopt and co-parent children and supports all the associated legal rights, benefits, and responsibilities which arise from such initiatives.”

*Same-Sex Marriage Resource Document*. American Psychiatric Association; November 2004.

“Numerous studies have shown that the children of gay [biological, adoptive, or foster] parents are as likely to be as healthy and well-adjusted as children raised in heterosexual households... and do not show any greater incidence of homosexuality or gender identity issues than other children.”

*Fact Sheet: Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues*. American Psychiatric Association; May 2000.

### **Child Welfare League of America**

“All applicants should be assessed on the basis of their abilities to successfully parent a child needing family membership and not on their race, ethnicity or culture, income, age, marital status, religion, appearance, differing life style, or sexual orientation... The same is true for our Standards of Excellence for Family Foster Care Services.”

*CWLA’s Standards of Excellence and GLBTQ Youth Issues/Nondiscrimination in provision of services to adoptive applicants*. Child Welfare League of America.

### **American Medical Association**

"RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support legislative and other efforts to allow the adoption of a child by the same-sex partner, or opposite sex non-married partner, who functions as a second parent or co-parent to that child."

(Res. 204, A-04) American Medical Association; 2004



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## **California Foster Care Non-Discrimination Act**

County child welfare departments, group home facilities and foster family agencies have a legal responsibility to provide care, placement and services to foster children, family members, foster parents and service providers without discriminating on the basis of actual or perceived ... sexual orientation, gender identity ... or HIV status.

## **International Human Rights Law**

The Yogyakarta Principles

*Principle 24: The Right To Found A Family*

“Everyone has the right to found a family, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Families exist in diverse forms. No family may be subjected to discrimination on the basis of the sexual orientation or gender identity of any of its members.”

“States shall:

- a) Take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the right to found a family, including through access to adoption or assisted procreation (including donor insemination), without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;...”

The Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; March 26, 2007

## **Transgender Parenting**

Two studies (1978, 1998) conducted by **Richard Green, MD JD FRCPsych**

Research Director of the Department of Psychiatry at Charing Cross Hospital, London, UK have: “*demonstrate[d] that transsexual parents can remain effective parents and that children can understand and empathise with their transsexual parent. The cases demonstrate that gender identity confusion does not occur and that any teasing is no more a problem than the teasing children get for a myriad of reasons.*”



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