GAY FATHERS


Presents the life of a gay male couple, including relations with the men's former wives and the children of the broken marriages.


Experiential account from one of the most successful of the gay fathers' groups that have sprung up in North America. See also: Michael Lynch, "Forgotten Fathers," in: Stan Persky and Ed Jackson (eds.), *Flaunting It!* (Vancouver: New Star, 1982), pp. 54-63.


Interviews with forty homosexual fathers disclose four distinct life styles and the importance of relationships with spouse and children. See also his: "Gay Fathers and Their Children," *Family Coordinator*, 28 (1979), 544-52; as well as Bruce Voeller and James Walters, "Gay Fathers," ibid., 27 (1978), 149-57.


Bem Sex-Role Inventory results show that gay fathers were no more masculine than gay nonfathers.


Results of a study of 60 men (30 + 30) found no difference between the father's and nonfathers' perceptions of their parents' acceptance of them. This finding supports the growing body of research that questions the Freudian-based concept of a causal relationship between early familial relationship patterns and sexual orientation.

D. CUSTODY

The increasing visibility of lesbian mothers (and a few
gay fathers) who seek to bring up their children after separation from the heterosexual parent has focused attention on custody problems. The legal literature on this subject is presented here, rather than in the Law sections below.

Summarizes California law on the child custody issue and the precedents existing at the time of writing.

Surveys both Canadian and U.S. cases, comparing treatment of "immoral" heterosexuals with that of homosexuals.

A judge's reservations stemming from two lesbian mother cases she has tried.

The precedent set in Doe v. Doe instructs Virginia courts to adhere to some more precise burden of proof as to the homosexual factor in adoption, and probably, custody proceedings.

Based on interviews with 60 women who were challenged for custody in 1960-81, this radical feminist statement of the case is marred by some contestable statistics.

In child custody determinations, the best interests of the child are served by continuing placement with the psychological parent.

Summary of Australian court decisions in child custody issues involving lesbian mothers. While homosexuality per se has been held not to render a parent unfit, some Australian courts have found children to be adversely affected by their mother's orientation. See also: Kate

Summarizes the major reported cases, discussing misconceptions and how they can be dispelled by scientific research findings.

Lesbian mother cases and gay father visitation cases are increasingly successful in the courts. The main hurdle continues to be the lack of objective legal standards that could make the outcome of these cases predictable.

On the value of expert testimony in rebutting commonly held misconceptions about the consequences of raising children in a lesbian household.

Summarizing current law, argues that advocates should work toward establishing a requirement that a specific logical nexus be shown between a mother's lesbianism and her ostensible unfitness as a parent before she can be denied custody based on her homosexuality.


Even though societal tolerance for alternative lifestyles seems to be growing, the courts still tend to feel justified in restricting the amount of exposure a child may have to an overt homosexual relationship on the part of the mother.

Offers a comparative analysis, including elements of subjectivity and bias that often enter into legal proceedings and decisions in these spheres.


Provides a detailed exposition of the constitutional arguments against allowing a mother's lesbianism to influence custody cases when no specific nexus of harm can be demonstrated. Reviews professional literature on sexual orientation as it serves to buttress the argument.


Discusses a Massachusetts case in which a lesbian mother sought to regain custody of her two children from a female friend. The mother was successful on appeal in a decision that set limits on the trial judge's discretion.


Gay and lesbian parents seeking custody of their children have met with increasing success in American courts since the California Court of Appeal instructed a trial court that it could not rule that a mother's homosexual orientation made her unfit to have custody of her child. See also: Catherine Rand et al., "Psychological Health and Factors Court Seeks to Control in Lesbian Mother Trials," JH, 8 (1982-83), 27-39.


Although a specific incident will often trigger a legal battle, its course may be determined by societal attitudes (including homophobia) and the kind of research evidence that is brought to bear.

E. CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

The increasing visibility of households headed by lesbian and homosexual single or coupled parents has evoked fears that the children's psychological health might be adversely affected. Little if any support has been found for this assumption of environmental determinism.