





Family Law Issues for LGBTQ Families

May 27, 2020

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Kelly D. Jordan, Principal Lawyer, Kelly D. Jordan Family Law Firm

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About our Presenters



Roxana Parsa is the Program Lawyer at METRAC's Community Justice Program, which provides legal education and information related to gender-based violence, equality and access to justice, in areas of family, immigration, criminal, employment and human rights law. She previously worked as a refugee and immigration lawyer in private practice, as well as in Aboriginal and human rights litigation at the Ministry of the Attorney General.



Kelly is the Principal Lawyer with Kelly D. Jordan Family Law Firm in Toronto, Ontario. Kelly practises in the areas of Family and Fertility law, Wills and Estates. She is certified as a Specialist in Family Law by the LSO and is an Accredited Family Mediator (OAFM). Kelly is an adjunct Professor at Queen's University Faculty of Law. Her particular expertise is in family law issues pertaining to the gay and lesbian community and assisted human reproduction. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys. She was co-counsel on Baker v. Francis (1999) and Miglin v. Miglin (2002) before the Supreme Court of Canada. Kelly was a past Chair of the Ontario and Canadian Bar Association, Family Law Sections. She is a member of the Office of the Children's Lawyer. Kelly is a frequent lecturer and author on issues pertaining to family and fertility law and co-author of Canadian Family and Immigration Law in 2015 for Carswell.

This webinar will be facilitated by Fiona MacCool, CLEO's Digital Projects Manager. Fiona manages web projects for CLEO including the Steps to Justice website, and formerly, the Your Legal Rights site. She also facilitates CLEO webinars, manages live chat services and is in charge of social media for the organization.







METRAC

METRAC, the **Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children**

- works to end violence against women, youth and children
- a not-for-profit, community-based organization

www.metrac.org

METRAC's Community Justice Program

- provides accessible legal information and education for women and service providers
- focuses on law that affects women, from diverse backgrounds, especially those experiencing violence or abuse

FLEW, Family Law Education for Women in Ontario

- provides information on women's rights and options under Ontario family law
- in 14 languages, accessible formats, online and in print

www.onefamilylaw.ca

www.undroitdefamille.ca

Presenters

Roxana ParsaProgram Lawyer, METRAC



Kelly D. Jordan

Principal Lawyer, Kelly D. Jordan Family Law Firm



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Topics to be Covered

- 1. Introduction
- 2. What Goes into the Decision to Parent?
- 3. The Federal Assisted Human Reproduction Act
- 4. Cross-Canada Parentage Law Sperm Donors, Surrogacy, Multiple Parents
- 5. Ontario's New Parentage Law

Information is accurate as of May 27, 2020.



Introduction

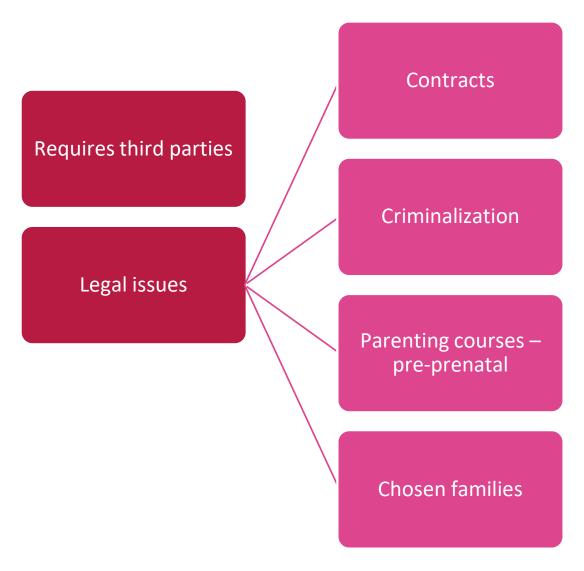
Why Talk About Family Law for LGBTQ Parents?

- History of discrimination against the LGBTQ community has shaped the way the community has created families.
- These families' needs are different and unique when they require legal recognition, and in cases of family breakdown.



What Goes Into the Decision to Parent?

What Goes into the Decision to Parent?



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Birth Certificate - Co-Mother as "Father"

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Birth Certificate after a Step-Parent Adoption

 Birth Certificate differentiates between "original" and "adopting" parents.





The Federal *Assisted Human Reproduction Act*

- AHRA was passed in 2004 by the Parliament of Canada, in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission (the "Baird Commission") on New Reproductive Technologies.
- Written to help protect and promote the health, safety, dignity and rights of individuals who use, or are born of assisted human reproduction.

- The AHRA prohibits the following activities:
 - Purchasing a sperm or ovum from a donor Section 7(1)
 - Purchase or sale of embryos, or other reproductive material –
 Section 7
 - Obtaining sperm or ovum from a donor under 18 years of age -Section 9
 - Paying consideration to a surrogate Section 6

- The AHRA prohibits the following activities:
 - Reimbursing a donor or a surrogate for expenditures incurred in course of donating and surrogacy respectively unless a receipt is provided – Section 12
 - Reimbursing a surrogate for loss of work related income during the pregnancy unless a qualified medical practitioner certifies in writing that continuing to work may pose a risk to her health or to that of the embryo or fetus - Section 12

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 The AHRA also makes breaking these prohibitions an offence punishable with a fine of up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, or both.

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- Under section 12, reimbursement of expenditures to donors and surrogates is permitted, but it must be in accordance with the regulations
 - Even after two public consultations these regulations are still undrafted.
 - As a result, section 12 has remained unenforced since 2004.
 - There is still a lack of clarity around "reimbursable expenses"

- The AHRA does not affect the validity of any agreement under provincial law where a person agrees to be a surrogate – Section 6(5)
 - Note: Not all provinces or territories have laws addressing legal parentage issues when "Assisted Reproduction Technology" is involved.

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Questions?

Roxana Parsa
Program Lawyer, METRAC



Kelly D. Jordan

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Cross-Canada Parentage Law: Sperm Donors, Surrogacy, Multiple Parents

- **Nova Scotia:** Section 3 of *Birth Registration Regulations*, N.S. Reg 390/2007 of the *Vital Statistics Act*, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 494
 - Where anonymous sperm donor is used for assisted reproduction, the person cohabiting or married to the birth mother is the child's other parent.
- Ontario: Section 5 of Children's Law Reform Act, R.S.O. c. C.12
 - When using assisted reproduction, a sperm, ovum or embryo donor is not a child's parent.
- Quebec: Article 538.2 of Civil Code of Québec, L.R.Q., c. C-1991
 - A person's contribution of genetic material for the purposes of a third-party parental project does not create any bond of filiation between the contributor and the child consequently born.

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- Northwest Territories: Section 5.1(3) of Children's Law Act,
 S.N.W.T. 1997, c. 14
 - A sperm donor is not a parent and may not be declared to be a parent, by that reason alone.
- Prince Edward Island: Section 9(6) of Child Status Act, R.S.P.E.I.
 1988, c. C-6
 - A person who donates the semen or ovum used in the assisted conception of a child is not a child's parent, by that reason alone.

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- Newfoundland and Labrador: Section 12 of Children's Law Act, R.S.N.L. 1990, c. C-13
 - A sperm donor is not a child's father if he is not married to or cohabiting with the woman at the time she is inseminated with his semen.
 - A sperm donor is a child's father if he was married to or cohabiting with the woman at the time she is inseminated, even if his semen was mixed with the semen of another man.
- Yukon: Section 13 of Child and Family Services Act, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 31,
 - A sperm donor is not a child's father if he is not married to or cohabiting with the woman at the time she is inseminated with his semen.
 - A sperm donor is deemed to be a child's father if he was married to or cohabiting with the woman at the time she is inseminated, even if his semen was mixed with the semen of another man.

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- Manitoba: No Legislation
- New Brunswick: No Legislation
- Nunavut: No Legislation
- Saskatchewan: No Legislation



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- Alberta: Family Law Act, S.A. 2003, c. F-4.5
 - Section 8.2 Application can be made that a surrogate is not a parent of a child born as a result of assisted reproduction.
 - Section 7(5) A person who was married to or in a conjugal relationship with a surrogate at the time of the child's conception is not a parent.
 - Genetic connection required between intended parents and child
- British Columbia: Section 29 of Family Law Act, S.B.C. 2011, c. 25
 - A surrogate is not a parent if there is a written preconception surrogacy agreement with the intended parent(s) who will be the child's parent(s) post birth provided
 - No one withdraws from this agreement before birth,
 - On child's birth, the surrogate gives written consent to surrender the child to the intended parent(s), and
 - The intended parent(s) take the child into their care.

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- Nova Scotia: Section 5(2) of Birth Registration Regulations, N.S. Reg 390/2007 of the Vital Statistics Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 494
 - A court may make an order with respect to the child's parentage in a surrogacy if all of the following apply
 - the surrogacy arrangement was initiated by the intended parents;
 - the surrogacy arrangement was planned pre-conception;
 - the surrogate does not intend to be the child's parent;
 - the intended parents intend to be the child's parents; and
 - one of the intended parents has a genetic link to the child.

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- Ontario: Children's Law Reform Act, R.S.O. c. C.12
 - A surrogate is not a parent provided
 - There is a written surrogacy agreement pre-conception
 - Parties had independent legal advice
 - No more than four intended parents
 - The surrogate consents to relinquishment 7 days post-birth
 - The intended parents and the surrogate share the parental rights until the consent is given when the child is 7 days old, unless the surrogacy agreement provides otherwise
 - Statutory declarations are required with a paper filing of the birth certificate

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- Prince Edward Island: Section 9(7) of Child Status Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1988,
 c. C-6
 - A woman who gives birth to a child is deemed to be the child's mother, whether or not she is the genetic mother.
- Quebec: Article 541 of Civil Code of Québec, L.R.Q., c. C-1991
 - Any agreement whereby a woman undertakes to procreate or carry a child for another person is absolutely null.
- Manitoba: No Legislation
- New Brunswick: No Legislation
- Newfoundland and Labrador: No Legislation
- Nunavut: No Legislation
- Saskatchewan: No Legislation
- Yukon: No Legislation

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Alberta: Section 9(7) of Family Law Act, S.A. 2003, c. F-4.5

- No more than two persons can be declared as child's parents
- One of the intended parents must have a genetic link to the child

British Columbia: Family Law Act, S.B.C. 2011, c. 25

 No express legislative restriction on a child having more than two parents Manitoba: Family Maintenance Act, R.S.M. 1987, c. F20

 No express legislative restriction on a child having more than two parents New Brunswick: Family Services Act, S.N.B. 1980, c. F-2.2

 No express legislative restriction on a child having more than two parents

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Newfoundland and Labrador: Children's Law Act, R.S.N.L. 1990, c. C-13 and Vital Statistics Act, S.N.L. 2009, c. V-6.01

 No express legislative restriction on a child having more than two parents Nunavut: Children's Law Act, S.N.W.T. 1997, c. 14

 No express legislative restriction on a child having more than two parents Nova Scotia: Section 5(2) of Birth Registration Regulations, N.S. Reg 390/2007 of the Vital Statistics Act, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 494

One of the parents must have a genetic link to the child.

Prince Edward Island: Child Status Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, c. C-6

Section 9(8) The presumptions
 of parentage will
 not be applied if
 they result in more
 than one person
 being considered
 to be a child's
 parent, in addition
 to the mother.

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Saskatchewan: Vital Statistics Act, S.S. 2009, c. V-7.21

- •Up to four parents can initially be registered under the *Vital Statistics Act.*
- If there is a birth mother and a birth father, they must be named.

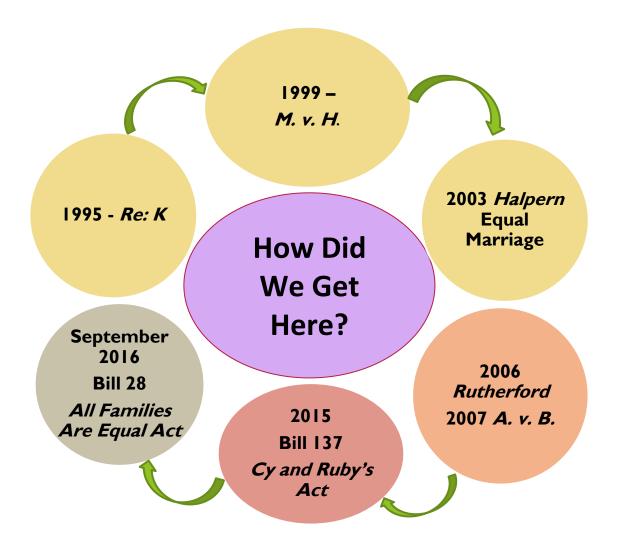
Ontario: Children's Law Reform Act, R.S.O. c. C.12; Vital Statistics Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. V.4

- Section 9 of CLRA -Up to four parents can be registered at birth where there is pre-conception intention.
- Section 13 of CLRA

 — Parentage declarations are available post-birth with some restrictions.



Ontario's Parentage Law



January 1, 2017 - Bill 28 "All Families Are Equal Act"

Parts I and II of the
Children's Law Reform Act
(CLRA) are repealed and
rewritten

CLRA circa 1978 is finally updated to bring parentage legislation is step with LGBTQ families and assisted reproduction

Related statutes are amended including the SLRA, and the *Child* Support Guidelines

CLRA: Who is a Parent?

- A birth parent is a parent, s. 6 (exception surrogacy, subject to sections 6 and 10)
 - A birth parent is the "person who gives birth" and is no longer gender defined
- A person who provides sperm through sexual intercourse is a parent, unless there is a written pre-conception donor agreement, s.
 7.

CLRA: Who **is** a Parent?

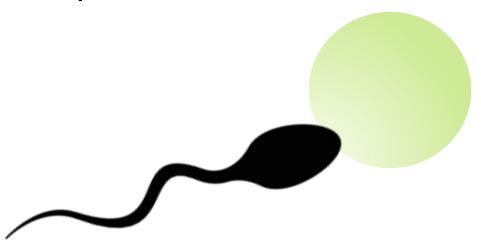
- There is a presumption that a child conceived through sexual intercourse is a parent
 - If that person was the spouse of the birth parent at the time of birth
 - Married to the birth parent at the time of birth
 - Living in a conjugal relationship with the birth parent at birth and child is born within 300 days
 - Signs the birth registration
 - Found by a court to be a parent

CLRA: Who **is** a Parent?

- If a birth parent had a spouse at the time of conception by assisted reproduction, the spouse is a parent, s.8
 - Exception If the spouse did not consent to be a parent before the child's conception or if the spouse consented but withdrew the consent.

CLRA: Who is not a Parent?

 If using assisted reproduction, a donor of sperm, egg, embryo is not a parent, s.5.



Amendments to the CLRA

- Bill 28 imposed more restrictions and conditions on declarations of parentage
 - Previously, Superior Court judges had a broad discretion to grant a declaration

Now:

- Declarations of parentage and non-parentage can be made on the balance of probabilities
- Must be made within 1 year of birth unless court orders otherwise
- Adopted children are excluded
- Declarations of parentage are no longer required by intended parents when there
 is a pre-conception written surrogacy agreement, with independent legal advice
 on both sides

CLRA: Co-Parenting Agreements

- Up to 4 people can be acknowledged as parents on a child's birth registration if they have a written pre-conception agreement.
- A declaration of parentage is available for a multi-parent (i.e. more than four people) family if they have evidence of their pre-conception intention and act promptly to obtain the declaration.

Vital Statistics Act: Naming Children

- Parents can now choose any surname for a child
- A child may be given a single name in accordance with the child's traditional culture
- Amendments to the VSA:
 - Removes heteronormative and cisnormative language
 - Birth registration with drop-down menu allows parents to select: "mother", "father" or "parent"
 - Inclusive of trans and gender queer people

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Birth Certificate after Step-Parent Adoption

Birth Certificate differentiates between "original" and "adopting" parents.

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		(see instruction # 3)				
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Current Statement of Live Birth

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Section B -	Mother Father	Parent	(see instructions #	F33	V				
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First and Midd	le Name(s)		-	1	Date of Birth (yyyy/mm/dd)				Age
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I agree that the	child's last name or single na	rne will be as s	hown in Section A	Yes	□ No				
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Section C -	Mother Father	Parent	(see instructions #	P4)					
Current Legal	Last Name or Single Name		L	egal Last	Name or Single Name at Bir	th			
First and Midd	le Name(s)		- 1	6	Date of Birth (yyyy/mm/dd)				Age
Any Previous I	egal Last Name(s) or Single I	Name(s)		F	Place of Birth (City/Town/Villa	age/Town	nship) / (Pr	rovince/Coun	try)
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I certify the sta	fements made on this form an	e true and corre	ct and I am aware it is	an offeno	e to wilfully make false state	ments.	Date (yyy	y/mm/dd)	
Section D - B	lirth Information (see instr	uctions #5)					Ni .		
Residence of F	Parent in Section B - Complete	street address	(City, town, village, town	wnship - if	rural give Post Office or Ru	ral Route	address)	Postal Co	de
	s of Parent in Section B if diffe	erent from abov	e - Complete street ad	dress (If n	ural give Post Office or Rura	Route :	address)	Postal Co	de

Statement of Live Birth - 3 or 4 Parents

Ontario ServiceOntario This is a permanent legal record. Please read all instructions before completing this form. Type or print clearly in blue or black ink and complete all items.	Office of the Registrar General 189 Red River Road PO Box 4900 Thunder Bay ON P78 6	Statement of Live Birth Form 2 (With Three or Four Pare Vital Statistics Act
Section A - Child's Information (see instruction #1) if the child is being	g given a Single Name yo	u must follow instruction #1b
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First Name	Middle Name(s)	
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Place of Birth (City/Town/village/Township)	(Regional municipality	(, county or district)
Section B - Mother Father Parent (see instructions #	3)	
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First and Middle Name(s)	Date of Birth (yyy	y/mm/dd) Age
	(36.570.5V4.535.81	1000/2119
Any Previous Legal Last Name(s) or Single Name(s)	Place of Birth (Ci	ty/Town/village/Towrship) / (Province/Country)
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Conclusion

Next steps?

- Changes to forms and regulations birth registration forms are changed but online forms need to be changed
- Retrospectivity? Problems?
- Reproductive Tourism
- Private Members Bill regarding criminalization of payments to surrogates and donors

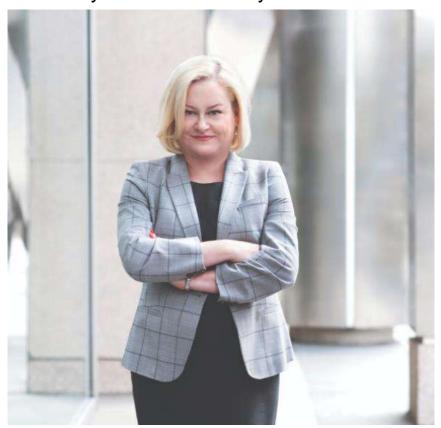
Questions?

Roxana Parsa
Program Lawyer, METRAC



Kelly D. Jordan

Principal Lawyer, Kelly D. Jordan Family Law Firm



05/27/2020

Please complete the survey, we appreciate your feedback.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H3CHSN6



- LGBTQ Parenting Network
 - https://sherbourne.on.ca/primary-family-healthcare/lgbt-health/lgbtq-parenting-network/
- The 519 Community Centre
 - https://www.the519.org/
- Rainbow Health Ontario
 - https://www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/

03/16/2020

JusticeNet

- ➤ not for profit service
- ➤ reduced legal fees

www.justicenet.ca/professions

Law Society of Ontario Lawyer Referral Service

www.lsuc.on.ca/with.aspx?id=697

- > 416-947-3330 (Toronto)
- > 1-800-268-8326 (toll free)
- > 416-644-4886 (TTY)

Legal Aid Ontario

www.legalaid.on.ca/en/getting/default.asp

- ➤ 416-979-1446 (Toronto)(accepts collect calls)
- > 1-800-668-8258 (toll free)
- > 1-866-641-8867 (TTY)

- Family Violence Authorization Program (Legal Aid Ontario)
 - Free 2-hour emergency meeting with a lawyer for family cases with partner abuse
 - Offered through some shelters and community legal clinics
 - Toll-free: 1-800-668-8258; TTY: 1-866-641-8867
- Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres http://www.sexualassaultsupport.ca/
- Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres <u>www.sadvtreatmentcentres.net</u>.
- Victim Services Directory www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pcvi-cpcv/vsd-rsv/index.html
- Barbra Schlifer Legal Clinic
 - Toronto: 416-323-9149 x278 (legal intake) TTY: 416-3231361
 - Free counselling, referral, legal and interpreter services to survivors of violence (Family, Criminal and Immigration law)

03/16/2020