

## Gay Adoption Is Not in the Best Interest of Children

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*As the battle over gay adoption intensifies, homosexual activists argue that science is on their side. However, these scientific studies do not meet acceptable standards of psychological research, while others conclude that children raised by gay and lesbian parents are more likely to identify as gay. Moreover, heterosexual parenting is in the best interest for children because mothers and fathers have distinctive qualities innate to gender that are necessary for child development. Along with couples nearing divorce or who are unemployed, gay adoption is a less than optimal arrangement, tragedies and heart-wrenching rhetoric aside.*

**I**n what some are calling a “second front” in the culture war—trailing in the wake of same-sex marriage—the battle over gay adoption is increasing in intensity.

Currently Florida is the only state that officially bans gay adoption, a law that has been upheld in federal court despite an intense publicity campaign, orchestrated by lesbian actress Rosie O'Donnell, to have it overturned.

Ed Vitagliano, “A Difference Worth Embracing: Why Mother-Father Couples Are Superior to Gay Couples When It Comes to Adoption,” *American Family Association Journal*, June 2006. Reproduced by permission.

However, in 16 states efforts are underway to put gay adoption bans on the November [2006] ballot. And both sides are trying to convince the public to see things their way.

## Gay Parents Under the Microscope

The core argument put forth by homosexual activists is that science is on their side. They claim that scientific studies demonstrate that kids raised by gay couples suffer no adverse consequences from the experience, and that there is therefore no risk in allowing homosexuals to adopt.

But the research says no such thing, according to Dr. Timothy J. Dailey, senior fellow in culture studies at the Family Research Council. Much of it “fails to meet acceptable standards for psychological research; it is compromised by methodological flaws and driven by political agendas instead of an objective search for truth,” he insists.

For example, Drs. Robert Lerner and Althea Nagai, partners in a social science research consulting firm, examined 49 of the studies most commonly used to defend same-sex parenting and adoption. In their report, *No basis: What the studies don't tell us about same-sex parenting*, the pair “found at least one fatal flaw in all 49 studies,” indicating that “no generalizations can reliably be made based on any of these studies. For these reasons the studies are no basis for good science or good public policy.”

Moreover, there is evidence that kids raised in same-sex households are more likely to drift towards the sexual orientation of their gay parents.

Dr. Judith Stacey, a sociologist at the University of Southern California and a supporter of gay adoption, admitted in a 2002 *Primetime Thursday* (ABC) interview that research had shown that children raised by homosexual couples were more likely to have “either considered or had one same-sex experience” than children raised by heterosexuals.