

Gay Marriage and Reproductive Options: An argument for Gay Marriage



Gay Marriage and Reproduction

One of the main arguments of anti-gay marriage activists is the idea that gay marriage is detrimental to family values, because a man and woman need to be the ones creating children. Technological and social advancements have proven that it is not necessary for both a man and a woman to produce. These advantages also challenge the idea that it is necessary for both a man and a woman to be participants in raising a child. This pamphlet is intended to give an overview on non-traditional forms of reproduction as well as give insight into the fact that same-sex parenting is not detrimental to the wellbeing of the child for voters who are considering voting against gay marriage under the assumption, that gay and lesbian couples are not capable of raising children.

Same-Sex Parenting

There have been no studies done to prove that children raised in homosexual families are in some way damaged. One of the most important arguments in the case against gay marriage is that children need both a mother and a father to be “normal”.

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There have been no significant findings that reveal that children with homosexual parents are psychologically impaired. There has also been no study done that proves that the children of homosexual parents are much more likely to turn out homosexual as well. The biggest difference between children raised by homosexual parents versus heterosexual parents is that they are more likely to be stigmatized within society. Anti-gay marriage activists advocate that it is necessary to have a man and a woman raise a child but why do they argue this? What different qualities do both a man and a woman bring that are necessary in raising a child? The biological differences between men and women do not account for the differences between the role of mother and father. The way western society views motherhood and fatherhood is socially constructed. Parenthood is constantly changing in terms of the roles each parent takes on, and what that role means to the child. Same-sex parenting is just another variation of parenting and it takes on much more social meaning than is necessary.

Adoption and Surrogacy Among Gay Couples

An aspect of the argument against gay marriage is that gay marriage is detrimental to the human race because many individuals are not reproducing children, therefore population will decrease. Gay marriage is not related to a decrease in population because gay and lesbian couples are having children through alternative modes of reproduction. The two main methods used are adoption and surrogacy. Adoption and surrogacy can be difficult when many agencies do not perform their services for gay and lesbian couples.

Surrogacy

- There are two types of surrogacy, traditional and gestational.
- With gestational surrogacy is when the surrogate uses in vitro fertilization (IVF). In IVF the intended mother is first given fertility drugs to increase the number of eggs being produced. After the intended mother takes fertility drugs, her eggs are extracted and fertilized in a petri dish, the resulting embryo is implanted into the surrogate's womb. The baby is carried to term.
- Traditional surrogacy is when the surrogate uses her own egg, and the intended father's sperm to become pregnant. This method is more controversial because the child is biologically related to the surrogate.

- Surrogacy is an alternative to homosexual couples who face legal challenges during the process of adoption.
- About half of the surrogacy agencies in the United States provide services for gay and lesbian couples.
- Surrogacy is a method of reproduction that not only allows homosexual couples to have children, but it also allows them to pass on their genetics.

Adoption/Foster Parenting

- Foster parenting is the easiest method, because in most states, there are no policies that ban lesbian and gay couples from becoming foster parents.
- One of the main struggles facing gay and lesbian couples is finding an adoption agency that is gay friendly.
- There are 4 states that make it particularly difficult for gays and lesbians to adopt: Utah, Florida, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Most of the restrictions come in the form of prohibiting adoption for a person who is "cohabiting in a relationship that is not a legally valid and binding marriage" therefore, single parents can adopt, but not gay couples.



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