

## No Homosexual Adoptions

On March 10, 2006, the Catholic Archdiocese of Boston announced it would shut down its decades-old adoption agency instead of complying with a state law requiring no discrimination against homosexual couples wishing to adopt children.

The Catholic Charities agency in Boston had hoped to get a religious freedom waiver, but the Massachusetts state legislature refused to grant it.

The same threat is looming over Catholic Charities in San Francisco, which may also have to close its doors to avoid complying with pro-homosexual, anti-discrimination policies.

In fact, on March 22, 2006 the National Center for Lesbian Rights said it would consider filing a lawsuit against the Catholic Archdiocese in San Francisco if the Church moves ahead with its plan to ban all homosexual adoptions through its agency.

*As it turns out, the director of programs and services of San Francisco's Catholic Charities is a homosexual male who has a daughter he adopted four years ago with his homosexual partner.* Glenn Motola was recently promoted at the charity as second in command of the Catholic agency. The current head of the charities is Brian Cahill, who has a homosexual son and has previously admitted placing children in "loving" homosexual homes.

Advocates of placing adoptive children in homosexual homes claim there is no evidence that it will

harm children. Adam Pertman, for example, with the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute claims: "What almost everybody has found is there's no reason to think placing children in the homes of gay and lesbian parents is problematic in any way." (John Simerman, *Contra Costa Times*, March 21, 2006)

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— TVC Executive Director Andrea Lafferty

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*This statement is false, and there is growing evidence that children in homosexual households face a multitude of serious emotional and physical dangers.*

There is also long-term research showing that children need both a mother

and a father in a loving, stable home in order to develop properly.

As TVC Executive Director Andrea Lafferty has noted: "We have had a national discussion over the past decade about welfare mothers without a husband and the impact this has on children. Why is it damaging for poor kids not to have a father, but it's okay for kids in a wealthy lesbian home to not have a dad? Studies show kids invariably suffer without a father regardless of family structure."

Drs. A. Dean Byrd and George Rekers are both experts on family structures and understand the importance of children being reared in two-parent homes with a mother and a father. Dr. Byrd heads the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH). He is also a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine.

In “Gender Complementarity and Child-rearing: Where Tradition and Science Agree,” originally published in the *Journal of Law & Family Studies* at the University of Utah, Dr. Byrd writes:

“The notion that all ‘family forms’ are equally as helpful or healthful for children has no basis in science. ... There is no fact that has been established by social science literature more convincingly than the following: all variables considered, children are best served when reared in a home with a married mother and father.”

Dr. Byrd’s review of current research on homosexual males and females shows that they suffer from higher rates of suicidality, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and mental health problems than do heterosexual males and females.

In addition, a high percentage of homosexuals were molested as children by same-sex predators—and this fact alone could endanger children if placed in homosexual households. A study published in 2001 by Tomeo, Temple, Anderson, and Kotler, surveyed 942 adults and compared molestation rates between heterosexuals and homosexuals. They found that 46% of gay men and 22% of lesbians reported homosexual molestation in childhood compared to 7% for heterosexual men and 1% of heterosexual women in the sample. According to Dr. Byrd: “What was particularly intriguing about this study was that 68% of the men and 38% of the women did not identify as homosexual until after the molestation.”

Dr. Byrd also points to a study by pro-homosexual researchers Stacy and Biblarz in 2001 who reported on the sexual attitudes and behaviors of children in homosexual households. Byrd notes: “The research can be summarized as follows: lesbian mothers tend to have a feminizing effect on their sons and a masculinizing effect on their daughters. The bigger question is how healthy is the rejection of gender roles? Gender non-conformity is probably the only factor in the literature that predicts future homosexuality.” Stacy and Biblarz also reported that girls in lesbian-headed homes were more “sexually adventurous and less chaste,” while boys were less sexually adventurous.

Dr. Byrd concludes by noting: “... mothers and fathers provide optimum development for children. Children’s needs must be placed first. The placement of children in settings where there is not a mother and a father begins a slippery slope, one filled with risk that neither the children nor society can afford to take.”

## **Dr. Rekers’ research confirms dangers of homosexual households to children.**

Dr. George Rekers, formerly a Professor of Neuropsychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, has written a detailed survey of the scientific literature on the potential dangers faced by children in homosexual households.

In “Review of Research On Homosexual Parenting, Adoption, and Foster Parenting,” posted on the NARTH web site, Dr. Rekers notes in his summary:

In a household with a homosexually-behaving adult, the foster child would be exposed to additional stress with the impact of the significantly higher rates of psychological disorder (particularly affective disorders such as depression), suicidal ideation, suicide attempt, suicide completion, conduct disorder, and substance abuse in homosexually-behaving adults. Thus, a foster placement in a household with a homosexually-behaving adult would risk exposing foster children to a substantially higher level of harm because research indicates that parental affective disorder results in higher rates of child depression, child maltreatment and neglect, as mediated by interpersonal stress processes.

According to Dr. Rekers, a child placed in a homosexual household will more likely “experience the stress and associated harm of living with a parent or an adult with a problem of alcoholism or the abuse of an illegal substance.” In addition, children in homosexual households may endure unusual stresses because of exposure to homosexual sex toys and pornography as well as potential threats of molestation by a homosexual partner or visitor to the home. Children placed in homosexual households may also experience the stress of living with HIV-infected or chronically ill individuals who are suffering from the consequences of sodomy.

Dr. Rekers’ notes: “This is because a child becomes aware of a heterosexual couples’ commitment to marriage that includes reserving sexual activity within the marriage relationship, but the child placed in a home with a homosexually behaving adult becomes aware that the homosexual does not restrict sexual relationships to marriage, but in fact is committed to behaving sexually outside the bounds of marriage.”

Dr. Rekers and Dr. Byrd provide convincing evidence from scientific studies—even from pro-homosexual researchers—that children who are placed in homosexual