

# **News RELEASE**

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December 13, 2002

Release No. 02-46

**New Position Statement Adopted by the American Psychiatric Association (APA)**  
*Adoption and Co-Parenting of Children by Same-Sex Couples*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Psychiatric Association Board of Trustees and Assembly in November approved a position statement on Adoption and Co-Parenting of Children by Same-Sex Couples. The statement was drafted and proposed by the APA’s Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues and supported by APA’s Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

The position statement says, “The APA supports initiatives, which allow same-sex couples to adopt and co-parent children, and supports all the associated legal rights, benefits, and responsibilities, which arise from such initiatives.”

Research over the past 30 years has consistently demonstrated that children raised by gay or lesbian parents exhibit the same level of emotional, cognitive, social and sexual functioning as children raised by heterosexual parents. The research also indicates that optimal development for children is not based on the sexual orientation of the parents, but on stable attachments to committed and nurturing adults.

This is the first resolution approved by the APA surrounding the issues of gay co-parenting but is consistent with earlier APA positions, such as the 2000 position statement supporting the legal recognition of same sex unions and their associated legal rights, benefits, and responsibilities. The APA supports legislation that strengthens family ties.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Psychoanalytic Association, American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, and the American Association of Family Physicians have all adopted similar positions.

**Note to editors:** The APA position statement on Adoption and Co-Parenting of Children by Same-Sex Couples can be accessed at <http://www.psych.org/archives/200214.pdf>.

The American Psychiatric Association is moving. APA plans to be in its new quarters across the Potomac River in Arlington, Va., on December 23, 2002. Our new address is 1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1825, Arlington, Va., 22209-3901. You can reach us at (703)907-7300.

**The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society, founded in 1844, whose 38,000 physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. For more information, visit the APA Web site at [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org).**

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