



CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAYS EVERYWHERE

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Sharon Bottoms and her son Need Your Help!

December 6, 1993

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago we sent you a questionnaire to complete. Your answers to this questionnaire will be compiled with many others, and presented to the Virginia Supreme Court on behalf of Sharon Bottoms who lost her son, Tyler, because she's a lesbian.

We've received dozens of completed questionnaires already, but Sharon still needs more voices to speak out. If you've already sent back or called in the questionnaire, THANK YOU! Your responses are being typed up and prepared for the court.

If you haven't sent it in yet, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE. The case now appears to be going to the Supreme Court of Virginia in February or March, which means the information in her support could be due by the beginning of the new year.

ANY DAUGHTER OR SON OF A LESBIAN AND/OR GAY MAN CAN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS! If you're too young to do it yourself, it's okay for your parents to help.

In case you've misplaced the first one, we've enclosed another questionnaire, it's the same one you've already received.

Please send your completed questionnaires to:
Stefan Lynch/COLAGE
1040 Dolores St. #106
San Francisco, CA
94110

If you prefer, you can phone in your answers to: **(415) 206-1930**.

Thank you for your support of Sharon Bottoms and her son.

Sincerely,

Stefan Lynch
Co-Director

P.S.
Sharon and her lover April are still living in Virginia and feeling very alone. They would love to get letters of support. Include any letters, pictures etc., with your questionnaire and we'll forward them to Sharon and April.

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____ Date of Birth _____

Your Occupation (example: Student) _____

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.

If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I, _____, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: _____ Signature _____

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Dear COLAGE,

I had just mailed you a letter asking what you were all about and if I could help. About twenty minutes after I mailed it, I heard on the radio that Sharon Bottoms had lost custody of her son in Virginia. I am shocked. I can't believe it. I have sent a letter to Amnesty International, begging them to take action. Maybe they already are doing something. I don't know if they handle stuff like that.

I am sending you my letter of support to Sharon Bottoms. I don't have an address for her. I put it in a S.A.S.E. I hope you know an address for her. Is there anything else I can do? Please let me know. I threw in a xerox copy of my letter for inspiration to anyone who wants it.

I am putting in an empty S.A.S.E. I thought maybe you guys could help me get started on being a gay rights activist. I don't want to be the kind of person who wears pins and tee shirts, but doesn't do anything for my people. I want to do whatever I can to help. I want to vote right, and put pressure on bad people and give support to the oppressed. Please help me to help others.

Love,
Michelle

Dear Claret,
I had just mailed you a letter asking
what you were all about and if I
could help. About twenty minutes
after I mailed it I heard on the radio
that Sharon Rottens had just contacted
a bar man in Virginia I am shocked
I can't believe it. I have sent a letter
to Amnesty International begging them to
take action. Maybe they already are doing
something. I don't know if they handle stuff
like that.

I am sending you my letter of
support to Sharon Rottens. I don't have
an address for her. I put it in a
S.A.S. I hope you know an address
for her. If there is anything else I can
do? Please let me know. I thank you
for your copy of my letter for inspiration!
I hope you want it.

I am putting in an apply S.A.S.
I thought maybe your guys could help me get
started on being a gay rights activist.
I don't want to be the kind of person who
wears pins and stickers but doesn't do
anything for the people. I want to do
whatever I can to help. I want to vote
right, and put pressure on bad people and
give support to the oppressed. Please help me to
help others.
Love,
M. White

Dear Ms. Sharon Bottoms,

I have been aware of your battle in court for quite some time. I am completely shocked and horrified that you did not win custody of your child. I felt sure that the courts would award him to you. At least, I thought you would get more visitation rights. What has happened to you can only be described as a despicable denial of basic human rights. Need I point out that it was a judicial effort to scare gay people into obscurity? It is a blatant and obvious attempt to wound our pride and drive us back into the closet.

I think the kind of people who would take your child away on the basis of sexual orientation are the kind of people who dreamed up genocide, book-burning and witch-hunting. I think they are completely un-American because they have forgotten our basic human rights.

I think it is very important that you know that what you have done is very brave. You have made the greatest personal sacrifice of all. You have put your child on the line to gain basic human rights for gay people. I choose to remain childless, and can only imagine your pain.

I'm not religious, but I think what you have done puts you in the category of a saint. It is because of you and your case that I am now taking a stand for gay rights. As fast as they can hurt one of us, another will spring up. I used to think that the issue of gay rights would be a breeze. I thought some other people would take care of it. I thought I could sit back and it would all happen for me.

My greatest hope for you is that someday your child will be returned to you. In absence of that, I hope he will realise what a gross injustice has been committed against his mother. I hope that when he gets older he will demand his right to be returned to you. I would like to send him a letter someday when he's old enough to understand.

Until that day, please be content that you are a hero in the eyes of lesbian and gay people everywhere. I think I speak for all of us when I say that you and April have all of our love support and devotion. I wish you my deepest gratitude for taking a stand.

Sincerely,
Michelle Schweiss



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National Center for Lesbian Rights - formerly the Lesbian Rights Project - A Public Interest Law Firm

February 16, 1994

Dear Friend:

Thank you for responding to the questionnaire for the Sharon Bottoms case in Virginia. Your willingness to share your experience growing up in a lesbian or gay household is vital to challenging the prejudice that led the court to remove Sharon's son from his home and to separate him from his two moms.

With help from you and others committed to justice, we at the National Center for Lesbian Rights will continue to provide legal support to Sharon and to other families threatened by judicial bigotry. We appreciate your courage in coming forward to support Sharon, April and Tyler.

Very truly yours,

Liz Hendrickson
Executive Director



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Sincerely,


Stefan Lynch
Co-Director

P.S.

Sharon and her lover April are still living in Virginia and feeling very alone. They would love to get letters of support. Include any letters, pictures etc., with your questionnaire and we'll forward them to Sharon and April.

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____ Date of Birth _____

Your Occupation (example: Student) _____

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.

If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I, _____, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: _____ Signature _____

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son



Name: MARLOWE MAGER

Address 2532 MCLLINTOCK RD 3 CHARLOTTE NC 28205

Phone Number (704) 347-3542 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 02/23/70

Your Occupation (example: Student) Graduate student, psychology
If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made. Yes!

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

From the time I was 2 years old, my father was married to another man. So I was aware that he was gay for as long as I can remember. It was not until I began elementary school (age 5) that I found out this was unusual, but it never seemed strange to me.

I am 23 now, so 21 years ago I became aware of his orientation.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

My father and mother have had joint custody of me since I was 2, and in my father's case I was raised by him and his male lover. The majority of my friends do not get along with their parents and harbor resentment towards them. ~~I~~ I feel fortunate that I have no such feelings, all 3 of my parents are excellent people and fabulous parents.

I have never had significant problems do to my father's sexuality. If anything, I feel it has made me a better clinical psychologist and a more aware human. In grade school, my father's identity helped me to gauge the strength of friendships, and I lost fewer friends due to his identity than most people seem to think I would -- most children are more intelligent than we would like to believe.

I, Marlowa Magee, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 12/29/99 Signature 

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? N/A

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I think the law in Virginia, and all states, should be nondiscriminatory. A parent should be allowed to have and/or keep his or her children so long as she or he is a good parent -- regardless of sexual orientation or

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at anything else
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

X

Name: Kenneth Andrew Roth

Address 2730 LAFFERTY #136 Pasadena TX 77502

Phone Number 473-1649 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 1-16-80

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Alice + Debra Moore (same address AS ABOVE)

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.

If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

I WAS 5 WHEN MOM & ALICE STARTED TO LIVE TOGETHER. I KNEW FROM THE START THAT ALICE WAS MY OTHER PARENT. I'M 13 NOW.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

It Doesn't Bother me that my mom + Alice are
together. They act like any other parents. Some times they
are more strict than my friends parents are.

I dont tell all my friends cause their parents must
be stupid to teach kids to not like some one cause of
something like that.

I, Kenneth Andrew Roth, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 12-8-93 Signature Kenneth Roth

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? Not Applicable

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

They should be able to keep their kids as long
as they are good parents. who they sleep with doesn't
make them love the kids less.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son



Name: MARTIN RODRIGUES

Address Rt 4 Box 179-A

Phone Number Fax Number Date of Birth 8-04-75

Your Occupation (example: Student) STUDENT

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

yes I want my identity shielded.

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.

If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

I was twelve. It was in 1987. My parent just told me he was and I gradually accepted it. I also accepted his partner.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I support anyone's sexual preference. I do not mind that my parent loves one of his own gender. It (gayness) does not effect my parent's physical or emotional abilities to raise me. I would not want to be a "perfect" all American kid. I love my father and love the way he is and wouldn't change it for the world!

I, Martin Rodriguez, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 12-13-93 Signature Martin Rodriguez

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents ✓ In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Victoria Russ

Address: 1036 Riva Ridge Dr.

Phone Number (703) 759-7196 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 12/29/27

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:
same as above Pam Russ

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

about 5 was when I learned that it's about 10 years ago.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and/or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I think a parent no matter whether gay or straight should be given a chance to raise a child. As long as the person loves their child it does not matter whether they are straight or not. A family that loves is hard enough to find these days. I have no problem with being a child with a gay mother. I think it is other people's problem. They need to work their problems out on their own time not my time with my family.

I, Victoria Russ, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 12/11/93 Signature Victoria Russ

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? all my life

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children? I think it is your child and you right to raise them.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



X

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Hugh Richardson

Address: 4065 S. Brawwood

Phone Number: (713) 667-2409 Fax Number: _____ Date of Birth: 6/18/80

Your Occupation (example: Student): student

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:
Norman Richardson 4065 S. Brawwood (713) 667-6709

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

6 yrs. 5 yrs. ago 6

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I think the child over the parent are any different. There is only one difference and that's that the parents have different sexual ideas.

I offer my full support to Sharon Bottoms and her sons. I think I know how I would son feel ~~and~~ wish every one good luck too.

I, Quinn P. [unclear], have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 12/19/93 Signature: [unclear]

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I think it shouldn't matter whether the parent is a gay or lesbian.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

~~DP~~ ✓

Name: Aaron Krowne
Address: 4336 Birchlake Ct., Alexandria, VA 22309
Phone Number: (703) 360-1426 Fax Number: _____ Date of Birth: 1/14/79

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student
If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:
Rose Valentino, 4336 Birchlake Ct., Alex., VA 22309 (703) 360-1426

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:
Names, Addresses

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Aaron Krowne, Rose Valentino

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

I was nine years old, five years ago.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

It is the same thing as being the child of straight parents, in the way you are brought up. Beyond sexual orientation there is no difference.

I, Aaron Kozzani, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 12-18-93 Signature Aaron Kozzani

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I don't think there should be a law. There isn't for straight parents.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents ✓ In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Katherine Moore ~~_____~~ (guardian Gusje Moore)

Address 6621 Wharton Houston, TX 77055

Phone Number (713) 681-7340 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 7/16/82

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:
Mom

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:
please don't use my mom's
and my real name

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

When I found out my mom was gay
I was 9. It was 2 years ago.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I think that being a child of a gay mom is no different than being a child of a straight mom. Gays are no different from everyone else. They just have a different love life. They can take care of any kid just as well a straight person can take care of a kid. They have no disease that can be caught by ~~any~~ kid. They do everything a normal parent does. Grocery shopping, clouths shopping, and toy shopping. Gays can suport kids just as well as anyone else!

I, Katherine Moore, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 12-21-93 Signature Katherine Moore

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I think that no matter what, if the child wants to live with a gay parent they can.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110





Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Christine Moore

Address 6621 Wharton Houston, TX 77055

Phone Number (713) 681-7340 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 7/10/82

Your Occupation (example: Student) student

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:
Gusje Moore 6621 Wharton Houston, TX 77055

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

please don't use my name and my mother's name only with written premisson

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

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How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

9 years old 2 years ago

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

It just feels the same except your parent is living and loving some body the same sex. At first it is not easy and you feel like you have to tell the whole world to get it off your chest but you can't. It is just the same.

I, Christine Moore, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 12-21-93 Signature Christine Moore

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

You may switch days or if your parent lives in a different state spend the summer or school year with him/her and switch on holidays

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Jay Allen
Address 4714 W. Franklin St. Richmond, Va. 23226
Phone Number 353-2787 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 1978

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student
If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:
Kara Allen 4714 W. Franklin St. Richmond, Va. 23226 353-2787

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:
please shield me and my mom's name and address - but
let them know that we live in Virginia.

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

I was 13 when my dad told me he was gay - this was
two years ago, almost three. I had been exposed to
lesbians and gays for many years - they were friends of
my parents - so, I was not upset. The fact that my
dad is gay is not something that bothers me, its not
something that hurts me. Its not a big deal, and
it is not a cause for doubting his parental
skills.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I love my father very much, and I support him and his homosexuality. His partner and I know each other well - I like him alot. Homosexuality is not immoral or gross, and I am perfectly comfortable with it. My dad is the best anyone could ever have - this is partly ~~it~~ due, I'm sure, to the fact that he is gay. My dad is very loving, sensitive, and in touch with his feelings. He can give me fabulous advice, and is never violent - unlike some heterosexual fathers. I am a proud child of a gay parent. My friends know my father is gay, and have no problem with it. The fact that my father is gay is not an embarassing one, and it is not one to be ashamed of. If someone tried to take him away from me because he was gay, I would put up a fight.

I, Jay Allen, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 11-22-93 Signature Jay Allen

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? born in Virginia

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I think the law in Virginia should allow gay and lesbian parents to keep custody of their children with no strings attached, and ~~no~~ no interference from the government.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Karen Bright

Address: ~~1000~~ ~~Sharon Bottoms~~ ~~1000~~ 608 Cleveland Cir. Conyers, GA 30201

Phone Number (404) 929-1178 Fax Number Date of Birth 4/10/74

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student
If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

Nine years ago, when I was ten years old, my father came out to me. My father and I were going to a father/daughter weekend with my girl scout troop. I've basically grown up knowing that my father was gay and I think I'm turning out to be a nice, responsible adult.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I am a sophomore in college. Without my father's support I may not have graduated highschool, let alone be in college. Both of my parents are good people. My mother is heterosexual and my father is homosexual. Neither of my parent's sexual orientations has effected their parenting schools. They both love me dearly. I see no difference between my mother's love and support and my father's love and support. My father is a wonderful person and parent. All parents have the need for companionship and I enjoy seeing both of my parents ~~and~~ with companions that make them happy. ~~no~~ ~~companion~~ There is no difference in which sex is ^{the} companion to make my parents happy.

I, Karen A. Bright _____, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: Nov. 23, 1993 Signature Karen A. Bright

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

A good parent is a good parent and a bad parent is a bad parent no matter what sexual orientation he/she may be. No one should be taken away from a parent because they are homo-sexual.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Andréa C Berry

Address 15761 Windward Way # 3204 Ft Myers, Fl. 33909

Phone Number 813-433-0648 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 12-22-70

Your Occupation (example: Student) Chef - 2.8c.

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

When i was 13 my dad told me he was gay. I saw him no differently, i didn't + still don't see why people should be judged on what they do in their bedrooms or shunned for loving + being loved by another person. My mother told me she was in love with a woman when i was twenty. I tell people about my family, to try to show people i am "normal" and all you need is love to be + have a family. I feel my mother + her lover should have the same rights as anyone else + that they should NOT be looked as different. I feel i am more secure + understand then most people



Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I feel the only way
i'm different is that i'm not prejudice
& am an open minded person who
stands for what i believe in. My parents
are no different then straight parents
only in one sense they didn't close
the door on love because it was
the same sex + that they don't
have the same rights as a straight
couple which i think is totally
absurd.

I, Andie Cray, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 11/20/02 Signature andie cray

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I think if there is love
in the family it shouldn't matter
what the parents do in the bedroom
And that children raised by homosexuals
are stronger & believe in there selves more + will make

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at the world a
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110

COLAGE

Letter
place 

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Brea Tansi

Address Rt. 2 Box 270 Elizabethton, TN 37643

Phone Number (615) 474-3988 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 10/12/77

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:
Gina Tansi Rt. 2 Box 270 Elizabethton, TN 37643 (615) 474-3988

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

I would like my identity, street address and telephone number to be withheld please.

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.

If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

I learned about my mothers sexual orientation three years ago when I was fourteen. I had an idea that she might be gay but I just shook it off. Then she told me, it kind of surprised me but she has a life just like I do and I'd love her no matter what she is or does. She is my mother the woman who gave life to me, loved me, raised me and for that I'm thankful.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

In a way I'm proud to be the child of a lesbian because I'm living proof that children that come from a homosexual household can turn out to be happy, normal, straight. It doesn't upset me that my mother is gay what does hurt is what people try to make gays out to be. Most gays aren't a bunch of bizarre, whip toting, sex fiends. They can be accepted as decent, constructive members of the community- which they are. My mother is my best friend, we can talk about any thing from boys to schoolwork to my plans for the future. My "mom number two" is also one of my best friends. We go on outings together, listen to music, and just have a great time. Just us girls. I love them both very much.

I, Bridget Jansi, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 11/22/93 Signature Bridget Jansi

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I believe that as long as a child has a home where he/she will be loved and supported then it doesn't matter whether the parents are gay or straight.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Rebecca L. Elliott

Address 1153 Armstrong Mill Rd., Lexington, Ky, 40517

Phone Number 273-9632 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 4/11/71

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student waitress

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian: _____

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

~~Please conceal both mine & my father's identities~~

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

My father began asking me questions about how I would feel if someone I knew were gay when I was about 8. After enough of those kinds of questions/discussions I eventually caught on and asked him if he was gay when I was 9. That was 10 1/2 yrs. ago.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I totally support my father! I have been with him to countless rallies and marches. I am very active in my support of him. Most of his friends are my friends, too. I have been "adopted" by many gay/lesbian families because they cannot have children of their own. My father's parenting skills are, in my opinion, unquestionably excellent. He is a good listener, a reasonable disciplinarian, understanding, a good role model, consistent etc., etc. I am very glad to have been raised by a gay parent. It has presented me with many diverse and interesting people and experiences. The strength of his conviction about his orientation has given me strength in my own convictions. My life would have been very empty without my father, and I don't believe that any other family would have yielded a better result.

Rebecca J. Elliott, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 11/23/93 Signature: Rebecca J. Elliott

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

These children belong with their parents just as much as children growing up in loving and supportive straight families do!

Pride and Protest. - R.E.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Joshua D. Judd
Address 5162 Salmon Dr SE Apt. C / St. Pete, FL / 33705
Phone Number (813) 895-1914 Fax Number None Date of Birth 9/1/79

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Stephanie Judd (same as above)

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

None

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.

If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

I'm uncertain

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

I grew up in the gay community and it was never kept from me. I always was around gay and straight couples. It never seemed strange to me. It was my life. My mom's sexuality of same-sex attraction has not been imposed upon me. I have been brought up as an individual, not a follower.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

My mother is a lesbian and I'm proud of her for not being afraid to show it. She's been a great mother for the last 14 years and she's always there when I need her. She has kept us both alive and well as the only source of money. She is my best friend. I don't know exactly what I think about being a son of a lesbian, but I know I'm damn lucky to have a mom like mine.

I, Joshua Budd, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 11/23/93 Signature Joshua Budd

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? I'm not

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I believe no person's sexual preference has anything to do with their parental qualities and/or personalities.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Jamie Mae Pato

Address SNU Box 2257 Bethany, OK 73008

Phone Number 405-491-8152 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 2-5-72

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed: No

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.

If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

No

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

12 years old for nine years now

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

At first I didn't care about my dad because what he was. But now I do care about my dad and what he is. I'm glad that I'm a kid of a gay parent.

I, Jamie Mae Pato, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 11-28-93 Signature Jamie Mae Pato

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? No

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I don't like it at all. The lesbian and gay parents should ~~not~~ have the right to have custody for their children. Like the other ~~pro~~ parents do.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110

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T20 LATE!

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Robert Stites

Address 491 W North Cabotburg, N. 61401

Phone Number 309-343-1496 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth 04/27/77

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student / Dietary Clerk

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:
Jane Stites 150 Cedar Ave Cabotburg N 61401

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:
none

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

I first discovered my mother's sexuality about the age of six. I really didn't realize what it meant, I just knew I had two moms and no dad. My mother told me at the age of seven. I felt sorry for her because it was so hard for her to tell ^{me}, especially when I already knew.

I now live with two gay men. I myself, remain straight. Not because it's what society wants, but it's what I want.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

In the past ten years, my mother has had three lovers. All of which have been loving and supporting of me. Although my mother and I have had our rough times, I looked back on my childhood and feel that it was better than children's of straight parents. Because of my mother's sexuality, I feel I am more open-minded towards all things.

My mother's parenting skills are better than most I have seen. I plan on raising my children in the same way, changing only the fact it would be in a straight household.

Robert C. Stiles, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: Dec 9, 1993 Signature Robert Stiles

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

That they would use the same standards of ability in gay and lesbian parenting as they would in the case of straight parents

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at
1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110

COLAGE



Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

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I, Caitlin Baker, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: Nov, 19, 1993 Signature X Caitlin Baker, L.

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? I'm in Texas

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I think that people should mind there own business and give that poor woman back her son.

(Please give this to someone to, hopefully, change the law.)

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son



Name: Ricky Ashburn

Address 6309 Ambassador Dr, Orlando, FL 32818

Phone Number 293-7964 Fax Number _____ Date of Birth May 21

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:
Diane Kerkhoff 6309 Ambassador Dr 293-7964

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.

If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

All my life and I'm 10 years old.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I feel fine about it. Being a child of a gay parent is neat it has caused me a few problems but not many. I think being the child of a gay parent is a privilege. I think I am special from the other kids. I like that.

I, Ricky, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 11/24/93 Signature Ricky Ashburn

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

I think the law should be changed, to if the parent is abusing the child the mother should be taken away not the child!!!!

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at 1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



GLORI ERIKSEN
9514 SW 148th AV
MIAMI, FL. 33196
305 382 4202 phone
and
*SOX

BORN: 5/2/75

OCCUPATION: College student/secretary

* note - please contact me personally prior to
transmitting a SOX. thank you
-6

I became aware of my own sexual preference when I was seventeen years of age.

I had finished high school and been away from home approximately four weeks when my mother and I were conversing about daily matters via telephone. She mentioned that in some leisure time, she had been hanging out with a woman we both knew to be lesbian. Out of the sinking feeling in my middle, I knew what had occurred. So, as there could be no denial on my part, I simply questioned my mother on the intimacy of their friendship.

Needless to say, she confirmed all thoughts I'd had. We experienced a slight, yet quite unfortunate falling out. This did not interrupt the frequency with which my mother and I spoke, it merely created unnecessary tension.

As a result of my reaction to her newly founded lifestyle, I never returned home to live, and have only visited her home with her

"wife" once. The occasion is ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~area~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~city~~ ~~of~~ ~~Chicago~~.
 near fifty-five miles outside of Chicago; about
 three hundred fifty miles away from my mother.

In all honesty, I can not determine whether
 or not the lifestyle has affected my mother's
 parenting skills. This is partially because I no
 longer reside with her. Also, I find objectiveness
 difficult to come by regarding this matter.

I believe that her attention would be diverted
 from her children (my brother, sister and me) regardless
 of her "spouse's" gender. This logic however,
 does not provide substantial solace in moments
 of angst over this matter.

I readily accept her happiness, although I
 cannot approve of this lifestyle. I shall continue
 to love, support and encourage her as an individual,
 not as half of a homosexual relationship. I am
 very clear in my opinions with her, which
 she respects, due to the honesty and tenderness
 with which I express myself.

Being the daughter of a lesbian is an
 experience that continues to evolve, as I do.

Given the opportunity to alter the circumstances, I believe I would decline. Ultimately, her lifestyle is her decision, and the impact of this matter upon me has everything to do with the manner in which I let it: a positive one.

I, Glori Eriksen, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. (understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

11/28/93

Glori Eriksen

I believe the Virginia law should permit biological parents to retain custody of their rightful and biological children, stipulated by their overall parenting skills (i.e. no abuse, neglect).

Statement in Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son From Child of a Gay Parent

From:
Justin Green
3936 Lost Creek
Dallas, Texas 75224
(214) 337-1555

Birth date: 6/1/72
Occupation: College student

My Story

My name is Justin Green. I found out my father was gay when I was six or seven years old. My parents had separated when I was five but it took my father a while to come to terms with the fact that he is gay. American Airlines had transferred its headquarters to Dallas from New York. My father, who was an executive at American, transferred down with the company. At this point, my parents decided to separate.

My father's homosexuality had little impact on my childhood. After my dad realized he was gay, he remained a great father. During my childhood, I did not comprehend and was therefore oblivious to society's hostility toward gays and lesbians. I lived a majority of the time with my mother during the school year and with my father during any vacation I had from school. At the end of eighth grade, I decided to live with my father during high school. This decision was mainly the result of my need to become closer to my father.

Since my father has had the same partner, Steve, for the last 15 years, his home offered a very stable environment in which to weather sometimes turbulent teenage years. My dad was and is very involved in my life. He served as president of my school's PTA for two years and was very supportive of my extracurricular activities in football, basketball, Mock Trial, Student Council, and as Senior Class President. I am much closer to my dad now after living with him during high school and I am very glad I made the choice to live with him.

I found there were only two negative side effects that came as a result of living with a gay parent. The first negative were the manifestations of society's illogical prejudice against homosexuals. This affected me in minor and irritating ways such as a few of my friends treating me awkwardly after they found out my father was gay. The second negative was my fear of the effects this prejudice would have on me, though I am heterosexual, when I told people my father was gay. The fear of prejudice was often worse than people's actual reactions. This fear was frustrating though, in that it silenced me when people were making ignorant, homophobic comments. Both of these negatives stem from society's prejudiced reaction to my dad's innate sexual orientation rather than from my dad's ability to parent as a gay man.

I strongly feel that being homosexual has no detrimental effect on the ability to parent. In many cases it may actually improve parenting ability. It requires great strength and self-introspection to overcome and deal with societal hostility toward homosexuality. First, the parent must come to terms with their own homosexuality which involves much introspection and struggle. Then, the parent has to deal with prejudice in all aspects of American life. The experience greatly shapes any homosexual in America and in my opinion

continuation of Justin Green's statement

causes them to be more thoughtful and sensitive as people and as parents. My father and the experience of living with a gay parent has taught me to be open-minded and non-prejudiced in a society that could use more of these qualities.

My father is the best parent a child could ask for and his partner, Steve, is an integral part of our family. As I make my way through college and towards Masters in architecture, I can only be extremely thankful to my father, Steve, and my mother for supporting me and for their effort as my parents.

Statement in Support of Gay and Lesbian Parents

The fact that a parent is heterosexual or homosexual is completely irrelevant to their ability to create a nurturing home environment. Children need love, understanding, support, and some level of stability -- not a particular and specific family structure.

I have participated for the last seven years in a support group for children of gay parents. The group was started by a group of children of gay parents and a licensed therapist. It was formed to give children a safe place to talk about the experience of having a gay parent. We, children, usually talk of the pain of the original divorce and of the difficulty of dealing with homophobia. No one in the group has ever said that "My parent's homosexuality has caused them to be a bad parent." The main problem is always dealing with others who are prejudiced against homosexuals and the fear in the children that this widespread prejudice will disrupt their lives. The prejudice against homosexuals is difficult for their children to deal with but after living through it, I can say it has made me a stronger and more open-minded person.

My father had no choice in his sexual orientation. Whether the romantic partner of my parent is male or female has no relationship to the ability of my parent to provide a good home for me. My father is an excellent and supportive parent. He is respected and liked by my friends. He was deeply involved with my school's PTA. My dad provided a stable and supportive house. The gender of his romantic partner made no difference in his ability and effort in parenting. Those who think homosexuality affects parenting are not familiar with families that have gay parents and have not read the scientific studies which support homosexuals as parents. The parent's homosexuality does not affect the child's sexual orientation nor emotional stability. The only thing that makes being a child of gay parent difficult is harassment by prejudiced and illogical people.

I, Justin Green, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: 2/10/94 Signature Justin Green

Statement on Virginia law concerning gay and lesbian parents

I hope the law in Virginia is changed so that gay and lesbian parents can concentrate on being good parents rather than fighting the courts for the custody of their children. The court rulings will create disasters in children's lives and irreparable damage in separating parent from child.

Good Spokesperson

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

X

Name: Thea Albertson
 Address: 4647 W. Nicklas OK City OK 73132
 Phone Number: (405) 5570968 Fax Number: _____ Date of Birth: April 30, 1993
 Your Occupation (example: Student): Student Sales Associate
 If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

Change all

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.
 If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

14, six years ago
 it was kind of surprising to find out about my Mom, my whole point of view was well ok if my Mom's happy I can deal with it.
 My father beat us and my ~~toes~~ hatters over it my Mom, ~~it~~ have Moms, I love these people. All through junior + high school they were my parents, I grew with them and people thought it was Kate + Ally.

Please make a personal statement addressing your support of your parent or parents, their relationship and /or sexual orientation, and their parenting abilities/skills. What do you think about being a child of a lesbian/gay parent?

I feel that Soc. look understanding + love esp. a judge in NY said in this day + age to give a family to love + feed + care for a child. Men + women are and should be take as an opportunity to support them cause its love and love is hard to find, I don't care what people say.

I've learned alot about good parenting from them. They were there to listen. Just as any other good family I think they did a good job.

You're not necessarily disappointed. it's a little frustrating not to be able to counter negative statement about kids w/ lesbian moms

I'm all for it.

married and raising for a PhD.

I, _____, have not named anyone in this statement without their permission, nor any minor without the permission of their legal guardian. I understand this statement may be used in a brief filed on behalf of Sharon Bottoms.

Date: Nov 21 Signature _____

If you are a citizen of Virginia, How long have you been a citizen? _____

What do you think the law in Virginia should be regarding lesbian and gay parents keeping custody of their children?

it should include gay + lesbian parents. There're alot of unwanted children and there are so many loving families out there especially gay + lesbian ones. the law should be more understanding and inclusive.

Thanks for filling this out! Please mail it back ASAP to COLAGE at

1040 Dolores St. #106, San Francisco, CA, 94110



this is very gratifying cause my son is living in a safe

Questionnaire for Children of Lesbian and Gay Parents In Support of Sharon Bottoms and Her Son

Name: Samantha R. Bishop

Address 315 Spence, Kerrville, Tx 78028

Phone Number 1-210-257-7622 Fax Number N/A Date of Birth 03/06/76

Your Occupation (example: Student) Student, (part time waitress afterschool)

If you are under 18, please list the name, address and telephone # of your legal guardian:

legal guardian: Graham Bishop

Please note: if you want to shield either your identity or your parent's identity, please tell us which facts above need to be changed:

I would prefer that you would not contact my father
(listed above)

If you live in Virginia, please note that the Bottom's case could put lesbian and gay parents at jeopardy if their identity is made known.

If you are uncertain as to the status of the law where your parent(s) live, please note if you want any identities concealed should the National Center for Lesbian Rights learn that the law in the state where they live is negative towards lesbian and gay families:

Many women, men and children are using their names in support of the Bottoms family. If you are willing to use your identity it is the most powerful statement of support that can be made.

How old were you when you became aware of your parent(s) sexual orientation? How long ago? (You may write this on a separate sheet of paper if you wish)

I think that I've always sensed that my mom was gay, at least when I was old enough to know what "gayness" was. At that point in my life (around 9 or 10) I have to admit that it embarrassed me. I lived in a small town in the country, and looking back on it now, I feel that if I were supported with a group like Colage I wouldn't have felt so alone. My parents divorced when I was 3, and around my 5th year of life Pam came and lived with my mom and I. I grew very fond of her and over time she became like another mother to me. They never told me about their type of relationship, I thought they were lesbians, but I never asked and they never told. When I was 11, I went and lived with my Dad and my stepmom in Germany. The only thing I can say is this: I've never felt the same kind of love from my father's heterosexual relationship that we felt with my mom.

Colage



I visit every summer now, whenever I have an opportunity to see her I do.

The moment I found out from my mom that she was gay was when I was 13 or 14. My father and I were fighting a lot. I wasn't the best kid, and he wasn't the best father (we balanced each other) when he started getting more and more violent, it got to the point where I wanted to go back to my mom's. When I called, Dad got on the phone and she told him. I think he took it personally, because I wasn't allowed to go.

Being older now, I look at things differently. My mom and I are very close. We can talk, and I've gotten over my childhood fear of being abandoned ~~at~~ by my peers if they find out. All of my close friends know and they know that we are separate people.

I respect my mother, and I love her a lot. The fact that she is gay has not a thing to do with the parenting process. Good parenting has nothing to do with the gender you prefer, it has to do with your heart and how much time, effort and love you are

willing to give a child. I've always felt more of that from my mom. (Although my Dad and I are getting along fabulously now)

I feel that no politician has the right to destroy a family. They need to realize that a family is a family, regardless of who's sexual preference is what.

I look at myself now, and I think I'm a pretty nice person. I don't get in too much trouble, I have friends, a boyfriend, and I carry on a normal teenage life. The fact that my mom is gay and she raised me didn't harm me in any way. What it did do was make me open minded. And I got a second mom in the bargain!

If someone is a good parent and the child is obviously happy the govt has no right whatsoever playing the part of a homewrecker. And in the case of Sharon Bottoms, that is what they are doing. Leave them alone and let them be ~~happy~~ happy

