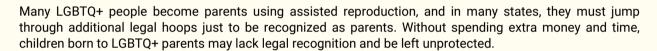# Key Laws & Policies Supporting LGBTQ+ Families

LGBTQ+ families come in many shapes and sizes and live throughout the country. This means that the legal and policy landscape for LGBTQ+ families is different depending on what state they call home.

*While many people think marriage equality is the only important policy for LGBTQ+ families, advocates work every day to advance a number of key laws and policies that directly impact the lives of LGBTQ+ parents and their children. **On this LGBTQ+ Families Day, we highlight four of these policy areas currently tracked by MAP.***

MAP
movement advancement project ▶

#1: LAWS ESTABLISHING PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

Many LGBTQ+ people become parents using assisted reproduction, and in many states, they must jump through additional legal hoops just to be recognized as parents. Without spending extra money and time, children born to LGBTQ+ parents may lack legal recognition and be left unprotected.

Recently, many states including Michigan, Connecticut, and Colorado have updated their state laws to ensure that LGBTQ+ parents can access <u>voluntary acknowledgement of parentage</u>; <u>confirmatory adoptions</u>; and <u>second and stepparent adoptions</u>.
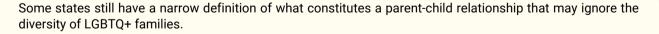
#2: LAWS PROTECTING LGBTQ+ PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN FROM DISCRIMINATION

From trying to navigate the foster or adoption process to taking their children to school, LGBTQ+ parents and their children often experience discrimination because of who they are or what their families look like.

Nondiscrimination laws are critical. Many states still lack <u>laws protecting students from discrimination</u> based on who their parents are, in addition to <u>laws protecting against discrimination when fostering or adopting</u>.

#3: LAWS ENSURING ACCESS TO PAID LEAVE

Some states still have a narrow definition of what constitutes a parent-child relationship that may ignore the diversity of LGBTQ+ families.

Some states have passed <u>family leave laws with broader definitions of families</u>, while some others provide <u>paid leave</u>, which helps support families during times of crisis.

#4: LAWS REQUIRING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FERTILITY SERVICES

Many LGBTQ+ families rely on medical care like fertility treatments, fertility preservation, and IVF. Without insurance coverage, this care can often be out of reach.

Some states have passed laws requiring insurance coverage for key fertility care, which makes the goal of building a family a reality for many more LGBTQ+ people.