TENSIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCEPTIONS OF PARENTAGE
EUROPEAN FAMILY LAW SERIES

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TENSIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCEPTIONS OF PARENTAGE

INGEBORG SCHWENZER (editor)
PREFACE

During the last century, fundamental changes have taken place in the area of the law of the child. The 1990s were even known as the “decade of the child”. Whereas initially, the child was merely regarded as an object of parental claims and rights, after the middle of the last century, the role of the “interests of the child” began to take scope. This trend culminated in the enactment of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which specifically gave children rights as autonomous individuals.

Against this background, the decision was made to conduct a session on “Tensions between legal, biological and social conceptions of parentage”, discussing the major developments in the law of parents and children, at the XVIIth Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law, 16–22 July 2006, Utrecht, the Netherlands. This book comprises the contributions made in anticipation of this Congress. It consists of 15 National Reports from Austria, Belgium, Canada, China/Macau, Croatia, Denmark, England, Germany, Greece, Japan, the Netherlands, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, and the USA, which formed the basis of a General Report by the editor that was presented at the Congress. The National Reports were written in response to a questionnaire that is reprinted in the annex to this book.

Many thanks go, first of all, to all the National Reporters for revising their reports for this publication. Special thanks are due to my dear colleague and friend, Professor Dr. Katharina Boele-Woelki, Utrecht, for organising the Congress, and for her willingness to include this contribution in the European Family Law series. Last but not least, I am most deeply indebted to my academic assistant, Mariel Dimsey, LL.M., Lawyer (NSW, Australia), who not only helped me extensively in preparing the General Report, but was also responsible for organising this publication. Finally, thanks go to b.sc. et cand. iur. Catherine Weibel, who assisted in formatting the reports for publication.

Basel, January 2007
INGEBORG SCHWENZER
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PREFACE** ........................................................... v

**AUTHORS** ....................................................... xxxi

**TENSIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCEPTIONS OF PARENTAGE**  
**INGEBORG SCHWENZER** ............................................ 1

A. Introduction .................................................... 1  
B. Affiliation ...................................................... 3  
   I. Motherhood .................................................. 3  
   II. Fatherhood ................................................... 4  
      1. Children born in wedlock ................................ 5  
         a. *Pater est quem nuptiae demonstrant* ............... 5  
         b. Challenging fatherhood .............................. 6  
      2. Children born out of wedlock ............................ 7  
         a. Attribution of fatherhood ............................ 7  
         b. Challenging fatherhood .............................. 8  
         c. Adjudication ....................................... 8  
   III. Medically-assisted procreation .......................... 9  
   IV. Progressive summary ...................................... 10

C. Parental responsibility ........................................ 11  
   I. Notion ................................................... 11  
   II. Attribution at birth ..................................... 12  
   III. Change of parental responsibility ..................... 13  
   IV. Stepfamilies ............................................ 14  
   V. Foster families .......................................... 15  
   VI. Progressive summary ..................................... 16

D. Contact ....................................................... 17  
   I. General ................................................... 17  
   II. Persons ................................................... 17  
   III. Enforcement ............................................ 19  
   IV. Progressive summary ..................................... 19

Intersentia  

vii
E. Adoption ...................................................... 20
   I. General ................................................... 20
   II. Who may adopt whom? ................................. 20
   III. Consent by natural parents ............................ 23
   IV. Consequences ............................................. 24
   V. Avoidance of adoption .................................... 25
   VI. Progressive summary ...................................... 25

F. Summary ...................................................... 26

TENSIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCEPTIONS OF PARENTAGE NATIONAL REPORT FOR AUSTRIA

MARCO NADEMLEINSKY .......................................... 27

A. Affiliation ..................................................... 27
   Preface ........................................................ 27
   I. General questions .......................................... 27
      1. Are there presumptions of parentage? Do they differ according to whether the mother giving birth to the child is married or not? ........................................ 27
      2. Is medically assisted reproduction allowed? Who has access (married heterosexual couples, cohabiting heterosexual couples, lesbian couples, single women)? Is egg donation allowed? Are surrogacy agreements enforceable? ............ 28

II. Fatherhood ............................................... 29
      1. How is fatherhood established? What presumptions of fatherhood exist (marriage, cohabitation, consent to medically assisted reproduction)? Fatherhood by acknowledgement (prerequisites, who must consent, case of otherwise existing presumption). .................................. 29
         a. Overview ......................................... 29
         b. Paternity established by marriage ............... 30
         c. Paternity established by acknowledgment ........ 31
         d. Paternity established by adjudication ........... 31
      2. Challenging fatherhood. Who may challenge (presumed father, his parents/heirs, child, mother, alleged true biological father – under what circumstances –, any interested person the state)? Prerequisites for challenging, especially time limits? The special case of heterologous artificial insemination; may the consenting husband/partner challenge his fatherhood; the right of the child to know its origin? ........ 32
# Table of Contents

a. Challenging paternity established by marriage ................................. 32
b. Challenging paternity established by acknowledgment ..................... 33
c. Challenging paternity established by adjudication ............................ 33

3. Consensual change of fatherhood? .................................................. 33
4. Consequences of challenging fatherhood ........................................... 33

### III. Motherhood ................................................................. 34

1. How is motherhood established? Presumption of motherhood? Is there a presumption of parenthood in case of a registered lesbian partnership/marriage for the partner? Is there a possibility to "give birth under X" (anonymous birth)? .................................................. 34

2–4. Challenging motherhood. Who may challenge (birth giving mother, genetic mother, the "want-to-be"-mother, legal father, biological father, child, others)? Prerequisites for challenging, especially time limits? The special case of medically assisted procreation, especially with reference to lesbian couples. Consensual change of motherhood? Consequences of challenging motherhood .... 35

### B. Parental responsibility ......................................................... 35

#### I. Attribution at birth ............................................................. 35

1. Married parents ............................................................................. 35
2. Non married parents (cohabiting, not cohabiting, right of the father to parental responsibility with/without consent of mother, further prerequisites) ............................................. 36

3–4. Stepparents, registered homosexual partners with/without consent of the biological parent(s)? Any person living in a stable relationship with the biological parent with/without consent of the biological parent(s)? .............. 36

#### II. Change of parental responsibility .............................................. 36

1. Death or impairment of custodial parent/persons ............................... 36
2. Conflicts between custodial parents/persons, especially the case of divorce (sole custody, joint custody) .................................................. 37

3. Preferences (mother, friendly parent rule, primary caretaker, biological parent, psychological parent, race, etc.) ................................. 37

#### III. Stepfamilies ........................................................................... 38

#### IV. Foster families ......................................................................... 38

1. Definition ...................................................................................... 38
2. Parental responsibility during cohabitation (extent, consent of legal parent(s), in case of joint custody of legal parents) .... 39

3. Conflict between legal and foster parents; right of legal parent to have child returned .............................................................. 40
C. Visitation/access ................................. 40
   I. General questions. The aims of visitation. Whose right (parent/other, child) 40
   II. Persons and conditions ......................... 41
      1. Biological/legal parents (unmarried father, after divorce, when child is in foster care, after adoption), grandparents, siblings, psychological parents/stepparents, others 41
      2. Details of visitation (extent, time, place), the relevance of the wishes of the child, special circumstances (domestic violence, alleged parental alienation syndrome), supervised access 42
   III. Enforcement of visitation rights ............... 43
      1. Problems of relocation within the country/to another country, necessity of court approval 43
      2. Enforcement against the wishes of the child / the custodial parent 44
      3. General attitude in cases of international child abduction 44
D. Adoption ........................................... 44
   I. General questions ................................. 44
   II. Who may adopt whom? ............................ 47
      1. Joint adoption of child not being related to one of the adopters (by married heterosexual couple, by married/registered same-sex couple, by any cohabiting couple, by any two persons, who want to assume parental responsibility together) 47
      2–3. Adoption of stepchild (by married heterosexual partner, by married/registered same-sex partner, any (cohabiting) partner). Adoption by a single person 47
      4. Age limits for adopter/adopte 47
      5. Prerequisite of adopter being childless, duration of marriage/partnership in case of joint adoption/adoption of stepchild 48
      6. Hierarchy of persons to be considered/given priority (relatives, foster parents, etc.) 48
      7. No second adoption (adoption of an adopted child). The special case of intercultural adoption 48
   III. Further prerequisites ............................ 49
      1. The best interest of the child 49
      2. Consent of child, mother, father (married/not married), grandparents, other relatives of the child, children/partner of the adopter, others. Possible substitution of consent 49
Table of Contents

3. Preceding foster care ...................................50

IV. Consequences of adoption ...................................50
1. “Full” or “simple” adoption? One single type or different
types of adoption? ........................................50
2. The right of the child to know his or her origins .............51

V. Avoidance of adoption ......................................52
1. Cases when avoidance is possible ...........................52
2. The consequences of avoidance .............................52

FILIATION, ADOPTION, AUTORITÉ PARENTALE ET LE DROIT AUX
RELATIONS PERSONNELLES EN BELGIQUE ANNO 2007
GERD VERSCHELDEN .............................................53

A. Filiation .......................................................53
I. Questions générales ........................................54
II. Paternité ..................................................56
III. Maternité .................................................64

B. Autorité parentale ...............................................68
I. Attribution dès la naissance .................................68
II. Changement de l’autorité parentale .......................70
III. « Belles-familles » ..........................................72
IV. « Familles d’accueil » .......................................73

C. Droit aux relations personnelles ............................74
I. Questions générales ........................................74
II. Titulaires et conditions .....................................74
III. Exécution des droits aux relations personnelles ............78

D. Adoption ......................................................80
I. Questions générales ........................................81
II. Qui peut adopter qui? .....................................83
III. Autres exigences ..........................................85
IV. Conséquences de l’adoption .............................87
V. Annulation de l’adoption .................................88
# Table of Contents

**LA TENSION ENTRE LA FILIATION LÉGALE, BIOLOGIQUE ET SOCIALE DANS LE DROIT QUÉBÉCOIS DE LA FILIATION**

**MARIE PRATTE** .................................................. 91

A. La filiation ..................................................... 92
   I. La filiation par le sang ....................................... 93
   II. La filiation paternelle ....................................... 93
      1. L’établissement de la paternité ........................... 94
      2. La contestation de la paternité ........................... 97
   III. La filiation maternelle ....................................... 98
      1. L’établissement de la maternité ........................... 98
      2. La contestation de la maternité ........................... 99
   IV. La filiation des enfants nés d’une procréation assistée ........... 100
      1. L’accès à la procréation assistée .......................... 101
      2. L’établissement de la filiation ........................... 102
      3. La filiation paternelle .................................. 102
      4. La filiation maternelle ................................. 103
   V. Le droit de l’enfant de connaître ses origines ................... 104

B. L’autorité parentale ............................................ 105
   I. L’attribution de l’autorité parentale ...................... 106
   II. Modification ou transfert de l’autorité parentale ............ 106
      1. Inaptitude ou décès de l’un des parents ................... 106
      2. La famille déchirée par une séparation ou un divorce ...... 107
      3. Les différentes formes de garde .......................... 107
      4. Les critères d’attribution de la garde ..................... 107
      5. Les conséquences de l’attribution de la garde .......... 109
   III. La situation des familles recomposées ......................... 109
      1. Les responsabilités parentales durant la vie commune de la famille recomposée ...................................... 110
      2. La situation lors du démembrement de la famille recomposée ......................................................... 110
   IV. La situation des familles d’accueil ......................... 111
      1. La situation de la famille d’accueil « de fait » ............... 111
      2. La situation de la famille ayant charge de l’enfant placé sous protection ............................................. 111

C. L’accès à l’enfant ............................................... 113
   I. L’octroi du droit d’accès .................................... 113
      1. Les titulaires du droit d’accès ................................ 113
         a. Code civil du Québec .................................... 113
         b. Loi sur le divorce .................................... 114
      2. Les conditions d’exercice du droit d’accès ............... 114
II. L’exécution de l’ordonnance d’accès ......................... 115
  1. Le problème du déménagement du parent gardien .......... 115
     a. Loi sur le divorce .................................................. 115
     b. Code civil du Québec ................................................ 116
  2. Le refus de se conformer à l’ordonnance ...................... 116

D. L’adoption ............................................................ 116
I. Les acteurs : qui peut adopter qui? ............................ 117
  1. Les adoptants .......................................................... 117
  2. L’enfant admissible à l’adoption ............................... 118
     a. Le consentement des père, mère ou tuteur ................. 118
     b. La déclaration judiciaire d’admissibilité à l’adoption ... 119
II. Les conséquences de l’adoption .................................. 120
  1. Adoption simple ou plénière? ..................................... 120
  2. Le droit de l’enfant de connaître ses origines ................ 120
III. La révocation de l’adoption ........................................ 121
Conclusion .................................................................. 121

TENSIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCEPTIONS OF PARENTAGE. REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

NENAD HLACA ............................................................... 123

A. Affiliation ................................................................. 124
I. General questions ...................................................... 124
  1. Are there presumptions of parentage (fatherhood/motherhood)? Do they differ according to whether the mother giving birth to the child is married or not? ................. 124
  2. Is medically assisted reproduction allowed? Who has access (married heterosexual couples, cohabiting heterosexual couples, lesbian couples and single women)? Is egg donation allowed? Are surrogacy agreements enforceable? ........... 125

II. Fatherhood ............................................................. 125
  1. How is fatherhood established? What presumptions of fatherhood exist (marriage, cohabitation, consent to medically assisted reproduction)? Fatherhood by acknowledgement (prerequisites, who must consent, case of otherwise existing presumption) .................................................. 125
2. Challenging fatherhood. Who may challenge (presumed father, his parents/heirs, child, mother, alleged true biological father – under what circumstances —, any interested person, the state)? Prerequisites for challenging, especially time limits? The special case of metrological artificial insemination; may the consenting husband/partner challenge his fatherhood; the right of the child to know its origin? ........................................... 126
3. Consensual change of fatherhood? ........................ 127
4. Consequences of challenging fatherhood (custody, visitation etc.) ........................................... 127

III. Motherhood ............................................. 127
1. How is motherhood established? Presumption of motherhood? Is there a presumption of parenthood in case of a registered lesbian partnership/marriage for the partner? Is there a possibility to “give birth under X” (anonymous birth)? ........................................... 127
2. Challenging motherhood. Who may challenge (birth giving mother, genetic mother, the “want-to-be”-mother, legal father, biological father, child, others)? Prerequisites for challenging, especially time limits? The special case of medically assisted procreation, especially with reference to lesbian couples .......................................................... 128
3. Consensual change of motherhood? .................... 128
4. Consequences of challenging motherhood .............. 128

B. Parental responsibility .......................................... 128
I. Attribution at birth ........................................ 128
1. Married parents ........................................... 128
2. Non married parents (cohabiting, not cohabiting, right of the father to parental responsibility with/without consent of mother, further prerequisites) ............................... 129
3. Stepparents, registered homosexual partners with/without consent of the biological parent(s)? ............................ 129
4. Any person living in a stable relationship with the biological parent with/without consent of the biological parent(s)? .......................................................... 129

II. Change of parental responsibility ............................ 129
1. Death or impairment of custodial parent/persons ....... 129
2. Conflicts between custodial parents/persons, especially the case of divorce (sole custody, joint custody) ............. 130
3. Preferences (mother, friendly parent rule, primary caretaker, biological parent, psychological parent, race, etc.) .......................... 130

III. Stepfamilies ........................................................................ 130
1. Definition of stepfamily (marriage, cohabitation, same-sex partnership) ................................................................. 130
2. Parental responsibility during cohabitation (extent, consent of legal parent(s), in case of joint custody of legal parents) .... 131
3. Dissolution of the stepfamily by death/divorce. Possibility for stepparent to get/keep parental responsibility/guardianship with/without consent of legal parents (criteria, preferences) ........................................ 131

IV. Foster families ....................................................................... 132
1. Definition .............................................................................. 132
2. Parental responsibility/custodial rights of foster parents with/without consent of legal parent(s) in the ongoing foster family .................................................................................. 132
3. Conflicts between legal and foster parents, the right of the legal parent(s) to have the child returned (criteria, time limits, etc.) ................................................................. 132

C. Visitation/access ................................................................... 133
I. General questions .................................................................... 133
II. Persons and conditions .............................................................. 133
1. Biological/legal parents (unmarried father, after divorce, when child is in foster care, after adoption), grandparents, siblings, psychological parents/stepparents, others .................. 133
2. Details of visitation (extent, time, place), the relevance of the wishes of the child, special circumstances (domestic violence, alleged parental alienation syndrome), supervised access .......................................................................... 133

III. Enforcement of visitation rights ................................................. 134
1. Problems of relocation within the country/to another country, necessity of court approval. Enforcement of the visitation rights is under the judicial competence ................ 134
2. Enforcement against the wishes of the child/the custodial parent? ........................................................................... 134
3. General attitude in cases of international child abduction .... 134
Table of Contents

D. Adoption ..................................................... 134
I. General questions ......................................... 134
II. Who may adopt whom? ................................. 135
  1. Joint adoption of child not being related to one of the
     adopters (by married heterosexual couple, by married/
     registered same-sex couple, by any cohabiting couple,
     by any two persons, who want to assume parental
     responsibility together) ................................ 135
  2. Adoption of stepchild (by married heterosexual partner,
     by married/registered same-sex partner, any (cohabiting)
     partner) ............................................. 135
  3. Adoption by a single person ............................ 135
  4. Age limits for adopter/adoptee (minimum/maximum) ...... 136
  5. Prerequisite of being childless for adopter, duration
     of marriage/partnership in case of joint adoption/
     adoption of a stepchild ................................ 136
  6. Hierarchy of persons to be considered/given priority
     (relatives, foster parents, etc.) .......................... 136
  7. No second adoption (adoption of an adopted child).
     The special case of intercultural adoption ................. 136
III. Further prerequisites ................................. 136
  1. Best interests of the child .............................. 136
  2. Consent of child, mother, father (married/not married),
     grandparents, other relatives of the child, children/
     partner of the adopter, others. Possible substitution of
     consent .................................................. 137
  3. Preceding foster care .................................. 137
IV. Consequences of adoption .......................... 137
  1. “Full” or “simple” adoption? One single type or different
     types of adoption? .................................... 137
  2. The right of the child to know its origins ................. 138
V. Avoidance of adoption ............................... 138
  1. Cases when avoidance is possible ....................... 138
  2. The consequences of avoidance ........................ 138
Selected bibliography ................................. 138
DANISH REGULATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

C.G. JEPPESEN DE BOER and A. KRONBORG ....................... 141

Introduction ................................................................. 141
A. Parentage ........................................................................ 141
   I. General aspects of parentage ...................................... 141
   II. Maternity ..................................................................... 142
   III. Establishment of paternity ....................................... 143
   IV. Challenging paternity ............................................. 144
B. Parental authority .......................................................... 145
   I. General ........................................................................ 145
   II. Allocation of parental authority ............................... 146
   III. Impairment/death of the holder of parental authority .... 147
   IV. Termination of joint parental authority ...................... 148
   V. Reallocation of sole parental authority to the other parent ...... 149
   VI. Stepfamilies ..................................................... 150
   VII. Foster families .................................................. 150
C. Contact ............................................................................. 151
   I. General ........................................................................ 151
   II. Conditions for contact ........................................... 151
   III. Enforcement of contact ........................................ 153
   IV. Hearing of the child ............................................... 153
D. Adoption ........................................................................... 153
   I. General ........................................................................ 153
   II. Persons who may adopt ......................................... 154
   III. Conditions for adoption ...................................... 155
   IV. Legal consequences of adoption ................................ 156
   V. Revocation of adoption ........................................ 156
Conclusion ............................................................................. 157

THE TENSIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL
CONCEPTIONS OF PARENTHOOD IN ENGLISH LAW

EVA STEINER .............................................................. 159

I. Legal aspects of the tensions between the different conceptions of
parenthood ........................................................................ 160
   A. Tensions between biological and legal conceptions of
      parenthood .............................................................. 160
      a) Mother and child ............................................... 160
      b) Father and child ................................................ 161

Intersentia xvii
B. Tensions between biological and social conceptions of parenthood .............................................. 164
   1. Acknowledgement by the law of the day-to-day care a child receives ......................................... 164
   2. Should the issue of biological parentage be linked to the issue of social relationship? ......................... 166
II. Current trends on the concept of parenthood .................................................. 167
   A. Presumption in favour of birth parents ......................... 167
      a) Foster parents ........................................ 168
      b) Grand-parents ........................................ 169
      c) Adoption ............................................ 169
      1. The child’s right to know one’s parentage .................... 170
      2. The child’s mother and partner’s right opposed to the putative father’s right to respect for their respective private and family life ........................................ 173
      3. The right to be a parent ................................ 173
III. Conclusions ................................................... 175

TENSIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCEPTIONS OF PARENTOGE IN GERMAN LAW
NINA DETHLOFF in collaboration with CLAUDIA RAMSER .............. 177

A. Affiliation .................................................... 177
   I. In general ................................................ 177
      1. Are there presumptions of parentage (fatherhood/ motherhood)? Do they differ according to whether the mother giving birth to the child is married or not? ........ 177
      2. Is medically assisted reproduction allowed? Who has access (married heterosexual couples, cohabiting heterosexual couples, lesbian couples, single women)? Is egg donation allowed? Are surrogacy agreements enforceable? .... 177
   II. Fatherhood .............................................. 179
      1. How is fatherhood established? What presumptions of fatherhood exist (marriage, cohabitation, consent to medically assisted reproduction)? Fatherhood by acknowledgement (prerequisites, who must consent, case of otherwise existing presumption) ................. 179
         a. Fatherhood on the basis of the mother’s marriage ...... 179
         b. Fatherhood by acknowledgement .......................... 180
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c. Fatherhood on the basis of a court determination</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Challenging fatherhood. Who may challenge (presumed father, his</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parents/heirs, child, mother, alleged true biological father—under</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>what circumstances—, any interested person, the state)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Consensual changing of fatherhood?</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Consequences of challenging fatherhood (custody, visitation etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Motherhood</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. How is motherhood established? Presumption of motherhood? Is there</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a presumption of parenthood in case of a registered lesbian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>partnership/marriage for the partner? Is there a possibility to “</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>give birth under X” (anonymous birth)?</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Challenging motherhood?</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Consensual changing of motherhood?</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Parental responsibility</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Attribution at birth</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Married parents</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Married at the time of the child’s birth</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Not married at that time but marry later</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Non-married parents (cohabiting, not cohabiting, right of the</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>father to parental responsibility with/without consent of mother,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>further prerequisites)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Stepparents, registered homosexual partners with/without consent</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the biological parent(s)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Any person living in a stable relationship with the biological</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parent with/without consent of the biological parent(s)?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Change of parental responsibility</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Death or impairment of custodial parent/persons</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Death</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Impairment</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Conflicts between custodial parents/persons, especially the</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>case of divorce (sole custody, joint custody)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Preferences (mother, friendly parent rule, primary caretaker,</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biological parent, psychological parent, race, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
III. Stepfamilies .............................................. 192
   1. Definition of stepfamily (marriage, cohabitation, same-sex partnership) .............................................. 192
   2. Parental responsibility during cohabitation (extent, consent of legal parent(s), in case of joint custody of legal parents) ............................................. 192
   3. Dissolution of the stepfamily by death/divorce. Possibility for stepparent to get/ keep parental responsibility/ guardianship with/ without consent of legal parents (criteria, preferences) ........................................ 192

IV. Foster families ............................................ 193
   1. Definition ........................................... 193
   2. Parental responsibility/custodial rights of foster parents with/without consent of legal parent(s) in the ongoing foster family ......................................... 193
   3. Conflicts between legal and foster parents, the right of the legal parent(s) to have the child returned (criteria, time limits, etc.) ...................................... 194

C. Visitation/access ............................................... 195
   I. General questions the aims of visitation. Whose right (parent/other, child) .............................................. 195
   II. Persons and conditions .................................... 195
       1. Biological/legal parents (unmarried father, after divorce, when child is in foster care, after adoption), grandparents, siblings, psychological parents/stepparents, others .......... 195
       2. Details of visitation (extent, time and place), the relevance of the wishes of the child, special circumstances (domestic violence and alleged parental alienation syndrome), supervised access .............................................. 196

III. Enforcement of visitation rights ............................. 198
   1. Problems of relocation within the country or to another country, necessity of court approval ...................... 198
   2. Enforcement against the wishes of the child/ the custodial parent? .............................................. 198
   3. General attitude in cases of international child abduction ... 198

D. Adoption ..................................................... 199
   I. General questions the aims of adoption. Fostering and/versus adoption. The societal attitudes towards adoption, supporting adoption (financial support, parental leave etc.), the legal mechanism of adoption (contract?), confidential or open adoption? .............................................. 199
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ii.</td>
<td>Who may adopt whom?</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Joint adoption of child not being related to one of the adopters (by married heterosexual couple, by married/registered same-sex couple, by any cohabiting couple, by any two persons who want to assume parental responsibility together)</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Adoption of stepchild (by married heterosexual partner, by married/registered same-sex partner or any (cohabiting) partner)</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Adoption by a single person</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Age limits for adopter/adoptee (minimum/maximum)</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Prerequisite of being childless for adopter, duration of marriage/partnership in case of joint adoption/adoption of a stepchild</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Hierarchy of persons to be considered/given priority (relatives, foster parents, etc.)</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>No second adoption (adoption of an adopted child). The special case of intercultural adoption</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>Further prerequisites</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Best interests of the child</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Consent of child, mother, father (married/not married), grandparents, other relatives of the child, children/partner of the adopter, others. Possible substitution of consent</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Consent of the child</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Consent of the biological parents</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>Consent of the spouse of the adopter and of the adoptee</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>Indispensability and substitution of consent</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Preceding foster care</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>Consequence of adoption</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>“Full” or “simple” adoption? One single type or different types of adoption?</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The right of the child to know its origins.</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V.</td>
<td>Rescission of adoption</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Cases when rescission is possible</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The consequences of rescission</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LE DROIT HELLENIQUE DE LA FILIATION : PARENTE BIOLOGIQUE
ET PARENTE SOCIO-SENTIMENTALE
A.C. PAPACHRISTOS ............................................. 211

Introduction .................................................................................................................. 211
A. Parente ..................................................................................................................... 211
   I. Questions générales .............................................................................................. 211
   II. Paternité ............................................................................................................. 212
       1. Enfants issus d’un mariage ........................................................................... 212
          1.1. Présomption de paternité ......................................................................... 212
          1.2. Insémination artificielle ........................................................................... 213
       2. Enfants nés hors mariage ............................................................................... 213
          2.1. Reconnaissance volontaire ....................................................................... 213
          2.2. Reconnaissance judiciaire ......................................................................... 213
       III. Maternité ........................................................................................................ 214
           1. Etablissement de la maternité par la naissance ......................................... 214
           2. Gestation pour autrui ................................................................................ 214

B. Autorité parentale .................................................................................................... 214
   I. Enfants issus d’un mariage ................................................................................. 214
       1. Pendant le mariage ......................................................................................... 214
       2. Séparation de fait, divorce, annulation du mariage ....................................... 215
       3. Décès d’un époux ............................................................................................ 215
   II. Enfants nés hors mariage ................................................................................... 215
       1. Enfants dont la paternité n’est pas reconnue .............................................. 215
       2. Enfants dont la paternité est reconnue volontairement ou par décision judiciaire, mais à la demande du père (si la mère n’a pas donné son consentement à la reconnaissance volontaire) ........................................... 215
       3. Enfants dont la paternité est reconnue par décision judiciaire, à l’issue d’une action en justice de la mère ou de l’enfant ................................................................. 215
       4. Mariage des parents ....................................................................................... 216
   III. Familles nourricières ......................................................................................... 216

C. Droit de visite .......................................................................................................... 216
   I. Parents .................................................................................................................. 216
   II. Grands parents ..................................................................................................... 217

D. Adoption .................................................................................................................... 217
   I. Généralités ............................................................................................................ 217
   II. Adoption des mineurs ....................................................................................... 217
   III. Adoption des majeurs ....................................................................................... 219
Conclusion ........................................................219
Bibliographie ......................................................220

TENSIONS BETWEEN LEGAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONCEPTIONS OF PARENTAGE – JAPAN
EMIKO KUBONO ................................................221

A. Affiliation ....................................................221
   I. General questions ........................................221
   II. Fatherhood .............................................222
   III. Motherhood ...........................................225
B. Parental responsibility ..........................................226
   I. Attribution at birth .......................................226
   II. Change of parental authority .........................226
   III. Stepfamilies ..........................................227
   IV. Foster families .........................................228
C. Visitation/access .............................................228
   I. General questions .......................................228
   II. Persons and conditions ...............................228
   III. Enforcement of visitation rights ....................229
D. Adoption .....................................................229
   I. General questions .......................................229
   II. Who may adopt whom? ...............................230
   III. Further prerequisites .................................231
   IV. Consequences of adoption ...........................232
   V. Avoidance of adoption .................................232

REGIONAL REPORT FROM MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
PAULA NUNES CORREIA ..........................................233

A. Affiliation ....................................................233
   I. General questions .......................................233
      1. Are there presumptions of parentage (fatherhood/motherhood)? Do they differ according to whether the mother giving birth to the child is married or not? ..........233
      2. Is medically assisted reproduction allowed? Who has access (married heterosexual couples, cohabiting homosexual couples, lesbian couples, single women)? Is egg donation allowed? Are surrogacy agreements enforceable? ........235
Table of Contents

II. Fatherhood ..............................................236
   1. How is fatherhood established? What presumptions of
      fatherhood exist (marriage, cohabitation, consent to medically
      assisted reproduction)? Fatherhood by acknowledgement
      (prerequisites, who must consent, case of otherwise
      existing presumption) ........................................236
   2. Challenging fatherhood. Who may challenge (presumed
      father, his parents/heirs, child, mother, alleged true
      biological father—under what circumstances—, any
      interested person, the state)? Prerequisites for challenging,
      especially time limits? The special case of heterological
      artificial insemination; may the consenting husband/partner
      challenge his fatherhood; the right of the child to
      know its origin? ..............................................240
   3. Consensual change of fatherhood? .......................243
   4. Consequences of challenging fatherhood (custody,
      visitation, and so on) ........................................243

III. Motherhood .............................................244
   1. How is motherhood established? Presumption of
      motherhood? Is there a presumption of parenthood in case
      of a registered lesbian partnership/marriage for the partner?
      Is there a possibility to “give birth under X” (anonymous
      birth)? ..............................................244
   2. Challenging motherhood. Who may challenge (birth
      giving mother, genetic mother, the “want-to-be” mother,
      legal father, biological father, child, others)? Prerequisites
      for challenging, especially time limits? The special case of
      medically assisted procreation, especially with reference to
      lesbian couples ..............................................246
   3. Consensual change of motherhood? .......................247
   4. Consequences of challenging motherhood ................247

B. Parental responsibility ..........................................248
   I. Attribution at birth ........................................249
      1. Married parents ......................................249
      2. Non married parents (cohabiting, not cohabiting, right of
         the father to parental responsibility with/without consent
         of mother, further prerequisites) ......................250
      3. Stepparents, registered homosexual partners with/without
         consent of biological parent(s) .........................251
4. Any person living in a stable relationship with the biological parent with/without consent of the biological parent(s)? ........................................... 251

II. Change of parental responsibility ........................................... 251
   1. Death or impairment of custodial parent/persons .......... 251
   2. Conflicts between custodial parents/persons, especially the case of divorce (sole custody, joint custody) ............ 253
   3. Preferences (mother, friendly parent rule, primary caretaker, biological parent, psychological parent, race, and so on) ........................................... 254

III. Stepfamilies .............................................. 256
   1. Definition of stepfamily (marriage, cohabitation, same-sex partnership) ........................................... 256
   2. Parental responsibility during cohabitation (extent, consent of legal parent(s), in case of joint custody of legal parents) ........................................... 256
   3. Dissolution of the stepfamily by death/divorce. Possibility for stepparent to get/keep parental responsibility/guardianship with/without consent of legal parents (criteria, preferences) ........................................... 257

IV. Foster families ............................................ 257
   1. Definition ........................................... 257
   2. Parental responsibility/custodial rights of foster parents with/without consent of legal parent(s) in the ongoing foster family ........................................... 259
   3. Conflicts between legal and foster parents, the right of the legal parent(s) to have the child returned (criteria, time limits, and so on) ........................................... 260

C. Visitation/access ............................................... 261
   I. General questions. The aims of visitation. Whose right (parent/other, child) ........................................... 261
   II. Persons and conditions ........................................... 262
      1. Biological/legal parents (unmarried father, after divorce, when child is in foster care, after adoption), grandparents, siblings, psychological parents/stepparents, others ........................................... 262
      2. Details of visitation (extent, time, place), the relevance of the wishes of the child, special circumstances (domestic violence, alleged parental alienation syndrome), supervised access ........................................... 263
III. Enforcement of visitation rights ........................................... 264
   1. Problems of relocation within the country/to another country, necessity of court approval ......................... 264
   2. Enforcement against the wishes of the child/the custodial parent? ....................................................... 265
   3. General attitude in case of international child abduction .... 265

D. Adoption .................................................................................. 266
   I. General questions. The aims of adoption. Fostering and/versus adoption. The societal attitudes towards adoption, supporting adoption (financial support, parental leave, and so on). The legal mechanism of adoption (contract?). Confidential or open adoption ....................................................... 266
   ii. Who may adopt whom? ........................................................... 269
      1. Joint adoption of child not being related to one of the adopters (by married heterosexual couple, by married/registered same-sex couple, by any cohabiting couple, by any two persons, who want to assume parental responsibility together) .............................................. 269
      2. Adoption of stepchild [by married heterosexual partner, by married/registered same-sex partner, any (cohabiting) partner] .............................................................. 269
      3. Adoption by a single person .................................................. 269
      4. Age limits for adopter/adoptee (minimum/maximum) ......... 270
      5. Prerequisite of being childless for adopter, duration of marriage/partnership in case of joint adoption/adoption of a stepchild ......................................................... 271
      6. Hierarchy of persons to be considered/given priority (relatives, foster parents, and so on) ......................... 271
      7. No second adoption (adoption of an adopted child). The special case of intercultural adoption ............... 272

III. Further prerequisites ............................................................... 273
   1. Best interests of the child ......................................................... 273
   2. Consent of child, mother, father (married/not married), grandparents, other relatives of the child, children/partner of the adopter, others. Possible substitution of consent ......................................................... 273
   3. Preceding foster care ............................................................... 275

IV. Consequences of adoption ......................................................... 276
   1. “Full” or “simple” adoption? One single type or different types of adoption? ......................................... 276
   2. The right of the child to know its origins. ................................. 277
Table of Contents

V. Avoidance of adoption ..................................... 277
VI. Final remark ............................................. 278
Abbreviations: ...................................................... 278

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS IN DUTCH FAMILY LAW
MACHTELD VONK .............................................. 279

Introduction ................................................................ 279
A. Parentage .......................................................... 281
B. Parental responsibility .......................................... 287
C. Contact ............................................................ 296
D. Adoption .......................................................... 299
E. Conclusion ....................................................... 306

LA TENSION ENTRE FILIATION LÉGALE, BIOLOGIQUE ET
SOCIALE DANS LE DROIT DE LA FILIATION
CRISTIANA-MIHAELEA CRĂCIUNESCU and LUCIAN STĂNGU .............. 309

A. La filiation .......................................................... 309
   I. Questions générales .......................................... 309
   II. La paternité .................................................. 309
   III. La maternité ............................................... 311
B. La responsabilité parentale ...................................... 313
   I. Attribution à la naissance .................................... 313
   II. Le changement de la responsabilité parentale .......... 314
   III. Les familles recomposées .................................. 315
   IV. Les familles d’accueil ....................................... 315
C. Droit de visite ................................................... 316
   I. Questions générales .......................................... 316
   II. Personnes et conditions .................................... 316
   III. L’exécution forcée du droit de visite .................... 317
D. Adoption .......................................................... 318
   I. Questions générales .......................................... 318
   II. Qui peut être adopté et par qui ? ......................... 318
   III. D’autres conditions ......................................... 319
   IV. Les conséquences de l’adoption ......................... 320
   V. Opposition à l’adoption ..................................... 320
### RECENT LEGAL REFORM OF THE PARENTAGE

**SERBIAN FAMILY LAW**

Olga Cvejić Jancić

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Affiliation</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. General issues of the fatherhood</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Motherhood</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Parental responsibility</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Attribution at birth</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Change of parental responsibility</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Stepfamilies</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Foster families</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Visitation access</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. General questions, persons and conditions</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Enforcement of visitation rights</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Adoption</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Conditions for the validity of adoption</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Adoptive capacity of the child</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Adoptive capacity of adopters</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Other conditions</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Legal consequences of adoption</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Proceeding of adoption</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PARENTAGE IN SWISS LAW

Andrea Bühler and Sibilla Dickenmann

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Introduction</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Reality of parentage</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Major reforms in family law</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Affiliation</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Medically assisted reproduction</td>
<td>344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Motherhood</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Paternity</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. General Remarks</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Paternity and marriage</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Paternity by acknowledgement</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Paternity suit</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Contestation of paternity</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Time limits of legal action and contestation</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

C. Adoption ..................................................... 350  
   I. Introduction ............................................. 350  
   II. Requirements ............................................ 350  
      1. Adoption of minors ................................... 350  
         a. Joint adoption ................................... 353  
         b. Single adoption .................................. 353  
      2. Adoption of majors and persons declared legally incapable . 354  
   III. Consequences of adoption .................................. 354  

D. Parental rights and duties ....................................... 356  
   I. Introduction ............................................. 356  
   II. Parental responsibility ..................................... 356  
      1. General remarks ...................................... 356  
         b. Parents holding parental responsibility ............... 357  
      2. The attribution of parental responsibility at birth .......... 357  
         a. Married parents .................................. 357  
         b. Unmarried parents ................................ 357  
         c. Stepparents ...................................... 358  
         d. Registered same-sex partners ....................... 358  
      3. Change of parental responsibility ........................ 358  
         a. Death or impairment of custodial parents ............ 358  
         b. Divorce ......................................... 359  
      4. Foster families ........................................ 361  
      5. Summary ............................................ 362  
   III. Visiting rights ............................................ 362  
      1. Persons and conditions ................................ 362  
         a. Parents and children .............................. 362  
         b. Third persons .................................... 362  
         c. Affected persons .................................. 363  
         d. Nature and extent of personal access ................. 363  
      2. Enforcement of visiting rights ........................... 364  
   IV. Other parental rights and duties ............................. 364  
      1. Child maintenance .................................... 364  
         a. Parents .......................................... 364  
         b. Stepparents ...................................... 365  
         c. Foster parents .................................... 365  
      2. Maintenance and duration ................................ 365  
      3. Information rights .................................... 366  
   E. Conclusion ................................................... 366
Table of Contents

PARENTHOOD IN TRANSITION: A UNITED STATES PERSPECTIVE

DAVID D. MEYER ............................................... 369

I. The traditional rules: clarity in the assignment and rights of parentage . 371
II. Blurring lines: family diversity and the new parenthood .............. 375
III. The problem of conflicts: prioritizing social and biological bases of parenthood ................................................ 379
    A. Mixed messages in the law of parent identity ................... 380
    B. Uncertainty in the scope of parental rights and obligations ...... 383
Conclusion ........................................................................ 386

ANNEX: QUESTIONNAIRE ............................................. 387
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