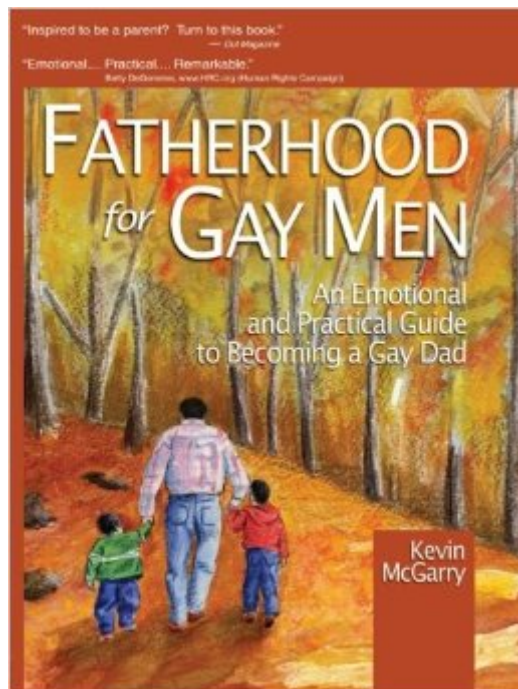


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# Fatherhood For Gay Men: An Emotional And Practical Guide To Becoming A Gay Dad (Race And Politics)



## Synopsis

Get the inside story on a single gay man's struggle to adopt! *Fatherhood for Gay Men: An Emotional and Practical Guide to Becoming a Gay Dad* is the story of one man's journey down the road less traveled—a single gay man adopting and raising his two sons. Author Kevin McGarry recounts his passage into parenthood after years of having his natural fathering instincts stifled by the limits—real and perceived—of being gay. This unique book details the emotional, financial, practical, and social realities of the adoption process for gay men. From the author: "We take risks by coming out of the closet as gay men and at the end of the day, we are emotionally happier because we took those risks. By coming out, we are being true to who we are. The same goes for anyone, gay or straight, who has gut instincts for parenthood. I knew over the years that I had parenting instincts because I had this incredible envy of other dads. I would watch them with their kids and wish that somehow, I could have that role. It was painful at times because being gay, I didn't think parenting was in my life plan. Had more role models been available to me, the process would have been a little less difficult." Much more than a "how-to" guide to adoption, *Fatherhood for Gay Men* is the personal account of a single gay man's struggle to become a father despite the real and imagined limitations of being a gay man. The book looks at the adoption process (domestic and international) from the inside, providing unique insight into: conducting a homestudy costs (fees and expenses) what countries allow men to adopt alternatives to adoption life as a new parent online resources and a state-by-state review of adoption laws, categorized by "Completely Legal," "Favorable Climate," "Mixed Success," and "Illegal." The book also includes results of the 2000 study by Gillian Dunne, senior researcher for the London School of Economics Gender Institute, of 100 gay fathers and fathers-to-be. *Fatherhood for Gay Men: An Emotional and Practical Guide to Becoming a Gay Dad* is a heartfelt and heartwarming story of a father's refusal to be denied a family. Visit the Author's Web site at <http://www.fatherhoodforgaymen.com>

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

REVIEWED BY: Francis A. Martin, Ph.D. Department of Counseling and Human Resource

Development South Dakota State University, Brookings. APPEARED IN: THE FAMILY JOURNAL:

COUNSELING AND THERAPY FOR COUPLES AND FAMILIES / July 2004 In my heart I knew that

I was a natural dad, but intellectually I had to convince myself that I could do it? Mr. McGarry's comment may seem to be a little odd to many of us. Most of us don't have to convince ourselves that we can do it when it comes to deciding to be a parent. Generally, we just do it, because we know that we can and because we want to. For many of us, finding an answer to the question about whether to become a parent is just a little more challenging than breathing. But what if the person who wants to be a parent is a gay man? How does he enter the psychological and social zones of existence that allow him to know that his desire to be a parent is OK? And beyond the turmoil of sorting through the complex inner map that shows no clear roads to gay parenthood, how does a man become a gay father? What does the law say that he can do? How does he get a child? How much is it going to cost? Among all of the questions and challenges, he must, in his own way, settle for himself the rightness of becoming a gay father. As McGarry reveals, this is no easy process. But as he also reveals, it is extraordinarily fulfilling and life affirming. And then, he gets to work. Among many things, McGarry finds a way to complete a home study to show that he is capable of caring for a child, knowing that as he seeks to get it done, he may find a social worker who rejects the possibility of a man becoming a gay father.

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