



The National Center for Adoption Law & Policy, along with virtually all other leading national child welfare and adoption organizations, believes that the best interests of the child should guide the selection of adoptive placements. This is a highly individualized standard that takes into account the needs and characteristics of each child and the qualities and characteristics of each potential placement that are responsive to the child's particular situation. In our view, a law that excludes an entire segment of the population based solely on sexual orientation is inconsistent with this standard. We agree with Judge Cindy Lederman, who in ruling that Florida's law banning adoption by homosexual individuals is unconstitutional, stated: "It is clear that sexual orientation is not a predictor of a person's ability to parent. A child in need of love, safety and stability does not first consider the sexual orientation of his parent. The exclusion causes some children to be deprived of a permanent placement with a family that is best suited to their needs."