



State Supreme Court ruling on parenting redefines the meaning of family

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The Washington State Supreme Court today redefined the American family, ruling that a woman in a same sex relationship can seek rights as a “de facto parent” because she helped to raise a child mothered by her partner during the time the two women were together.

“It may be a signal that they intend to change the definition of marriage very soon when they rule on same-sex marriage,” said the Rev. Joe Fuiten, Chairman of the Faith and Freedom Network and Pastor of Cedar Park Church in Bothell. “The court has created a whole new class of parent in the state of Washington with absolutely no regards to how the ruling will affect children.

“Anybody who ‘hooks up’ with somebody else, whether in a homosexual or heterosexual relationship, will be in a position to claim some kind of parenting rights. This goes beyond a child having two moms or two dads. Under terms of this ruling, a child might have a dozen of each,” he said.

Fuiten said Justice Bobbe Bridge, who wrote the opinion for the majority, created a new kind of parent. She also expressed a willingness to change the process by which we arrive at a definition of family.

She wrote, “In the face of advancing technologies and evolving notions of what comprises a family unit, this case causes us to confront the manner in which our state, through its statutory scheme and common law principles, defines the terms ‘parents’ and ‘families.’”

“You’d think that kids have enough to deal with just growing up,” Fuiten said.

Fuiten added the ruling is another example of judicial overreach.

“This Court is usurping the legislative role, claimed for itself the right to define parenthood and family. It is a failure of common sense, a failure of judicial restraint and a failure of the spirit,” he said.

Fuiten said the Court ruled without the usual debate around values and consequences that accompanies legislative decisions.

“The legislature was clearly forward thinking about ‘evolving’ issues since they covered surrogate parenting among their definitions, Fuiten said “The court was obviously not satisfied that the legislature had done its job or that they had come to the right conclusions.”

“In place of the legislature, the Court inserted its superior wisdom, changing the definition of parenthood.”