

Press Release



Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice Applauds Supreme Court Decision Affirming Parentage by Intent

HARRISBURG, PA — The Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice (formerly the Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial & Ethnic Fairness) celebrates the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania’s decision in *Chanel Glover v. Nicole Junior* (J-50-2024), which affirms the principle of parentage by intent.

The Commission joined an amicus brief, led by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the Academy of Adoption & Assisted Reproduction Attorneys, supporting recognition of legal parentage based on the clear intent to bring a child into the world—particularly relevant for families formed through assisted reproductive technology (ART), including LGBTQ+ families.

“This is a profound victory for fairness and justice,” said Maraleen Shields, Executive Director of the Commission. “The Court rightly recognized that intent—not just biology or traditional structures—defines parenthood. This decision protects children and affirms the dignity of all families.”

The case involved a same-sex couple who conceived a child via in vitro fertilization. Although they separated before the child’s birth, the Court acknowledged that both individuals intended to become parents and should be recognized as such under Pennsylvania law.

The Commission remains committed to promoting equity across the Commonwealth’s legal system and is proud to have supported this landmark ruling.

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