**Influences on sexual orientation: professional organizations' statements**

A legal brief dated September 26, 2007, and presented on behalf of the American Psychological Association, California Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, National Association of Social Workers, and National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter, stated. [*Case No. S147999 in the Supreme Court of the State of California*, *In re Marriage Cases Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4365, Application for leave to file brief amici curiae in support of the parties challenging the marriage exclusion, and brief amici curiae of the American Psychological Association, California Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, National Association of Social Workers, and National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter in support of the parties challenging the marriage exclusion* (California amicus brief of APA, APA, & NASW)](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/highprofile/documents/Amer_Psychological_Assn_Amicus_Curiae_Brief.pdf), accessed March 17, 2010, Brief, p. 33 (p. 55 per Adobe Acrobat Reader) (current date per *id.*, Application, p. 5 (p. 6 per Adobe Acrobat Reader) (in double capitals in original)).

Currently, there is no scientific consensus about the specific factors that cause an individual to become heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual — including possible biological, psychological, or social effects of the parents' sexual orientation.

And added in a footnote:[*Case No. S147999 in the Supreme Court of the State of California*, *In re Marriage Cases Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4365, Application for leave to file brief amici curiae in support of the parties challenging the marriage exclusion, and brief amici curiae of the American Psychological Association, California Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, National Association of Social Workers, and National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter in support of the parties challenging the marriage exclusion* (California amicus brief of APA, APA, & NASW)](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/highprofile/documents/Amer_Psychological_Assn_Amicus_Curiae_Brief.pdf), as accessed March 17, 2010, Brief, p. 33 n. 60 (p. 55 per Adobe Acrobat Reader) (*Corsini* citation per *id.*, Brief, p. 6 n. 4 (p. 28 per Adobe Acrobat Reader)). The footnote went on to cite "Am. Psychol. Ass'n, 7 *Encyclopedia of Psychol.* 260 (A.E. Kazdin ed., 2000); 2 *Corsini* ["*The Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences* . . . (W.E. Craighead & C.B. Nemeroff eds., 3d ed. 2001)"],...at 683."

Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social, and cultural influences on sexual orientation, no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation – heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality – is determined by any particular factor or factors. The evaluation of *amici* is that, although some of this research may be promising in facilitating greater understanding of the development of sexual orientation, it does not permit a conclusion based in sound science at the present time as to the cause or causes of sexual orientation, whether homosexual, bisexual, or heterosexual.

The [American Psychological Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Psychological_Association), the [American Psychiatric Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Psychiatric_Association), and the [National Association of Social Workers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Association_of_Social_Workers) in 2006 stated:[Case No. S147999 in the Supreme Court of the State of California, In re Marriage Cases Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4365, Application for leave to file brief amici curiae in support of the parties challenging the marriage exclusion, and brief amici curiae of the American Psychological Association, California Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, National Association of Social Workers, and National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter in support of the parties challenging the marriage exclusion (California amicus brief of APA, APA, & NASW)](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/highprofile/documents/Amer_Psychological_Assn_Amicus_Curiae_Brief.pdf).

Currently, there is no scientific consensus about the specific factors that cause an individual to become heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual – including possible biological, psychological, or social effects of the parents' sexual orientation. However, the available evidence indicates that the vast majority of lesbian and gay adults were raised by heterosexual parents and the vast majority of children raised by lesbian and gay parents eventually grow up to be heterosexual.

The [American Academy of Pediatrics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Academy_of_Pediatrics) in 2004 stated: Frankowski BL; American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Adolescence (June 2004). ["Sexual orientation and adolescents"](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/113/6/1827.long). *Pediatrics* **113** (6): 1827–32. [doi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_object_identifier):[10.1542/peds.113.6.1827](http://dx.doi.org/10.1542/peds.113.6.1827). [PMID](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PubMed_Identifier) [15173519](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15173519).

The mechanisms for the development of a particular sexual orientation remain unclear, but the current literature and most scholars in the field state that one's sexual orientation is not a choice; that is, individuals do not choose to be homosexual or heterosexual. A variety of theories about the influences on sexual orientation have been proposed. Sexual orientation probably is not determined by any one factor but by a combination of genetic, hormonal, and environmental influences. In recent decades, biologically based theories have been favored by experts. Although there continues to be controversy and uncertainty as to the genesis of the variety of human sexual orientations, there is no scientific evidence that abnormal parenting, sexual abuse, or other adverse life events influence sexual orientation. Current knowledge suggests that sexual orientation is usually established during early childhood.

The American Psychiatric Association stated: American Psychiatric Association [Sexual Orientation](http://healthyminds.org/More-Info-For/GayLesbianBisexuals.aspx)

No one knows what causes heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality. Homosexuality was once thought to be the result of troubled family dynamics or faulty psychological development. Those assumptions are now understood to have been based on misinformation and prejudice.

Excerpted from *Wikipedia* Article 12/8/12https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual\_orientation#Genetic\_factors