**Polyamory Legal or Nah?**

With more and more members discussing Poly families and communes, it is important to look at the laws surrounding cohabitation and the rights of all parties involved. This month we will focus on these laws, as well as look at resources to aid in the building of Poly families.

* Is Polyamory Legal?
* Rainbows End Press FAQ on Polyamory

<http://rainbowsendpress.com/sp/poly.html#q3>

* Psychology Today- The Polyamorists Next Door

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-polyamorists-next-door/201401/the-five-most-common-legal-issues-facing-polyamorists>

**Questions for discussion:**

1. Since there are no laws in place that recognize a polyamorous marriage as a legal union, how can we ourselves recognize and honor that union?
2. Same sex couples in the past (and unfortunately sometimes still) have had to hide their relationships because they stood out- due to being the same sex- to people who didn’t agree with their relationships. Since poly families do not necessarily stand out at first glance, is it worth the trouble to even come out or flaunt our polyamorous lifestyle, given the risks?
3. Are you, or any families you know currently in hiding to protect yourself from the backlash that may come about by coming out as Poly?
* How to Establish Legal Rights Within an Illegal Union
* Unmarried Equality Website

<http://www.unmarried.org/cohabitation/legal-financial/faq/>

 <http://www.unmarried.org/cohabitation/legal-financial/resources/>

* Creating a Line Family Website

<http://www.line-family.info/owningRealProperty.htm>

<http://www.line-family.info/famFinance.htm>

**Questions for discussion:**

1. For those of you living communally or just sharing finances, what are some ways that you personally have protected your family legally?
2. Have any of you seen or implemented the Poly Bill of Rights in your own household? If so, how effective has it been? [http://www.polyamorysociety.org/Poly\_Relationships\_Rights\_&\_Responsibilities.html](http://www.polyamorysociety.org/Poly_Relationships_Rights_%26_Responsibilities.html)
3. Many Poly families have protected their finances by setting themselves up as a corporation. Is this an option that is viable for Black Poly families? Or is this just another way that proves that polyamory can only be practiced effectively by the already well off? If it is viable, do you feel that Black families will go through the trouble?
* The Sad Truth About Laws Regarding Children Within a Polyamorous Family
* New Frontiers of Family Law

<http://www.lifeofthelaw.org/new-frontiers-of-amily-law/>

* Adventures in Poly

<http://adventuresinpoly.tumblr.com/post/11710588704/implosion-of-a-poly-family-or-how-going-mono-could>

* Mother’s Appearance on MTV Causes Loss of Child Custody- Polyamory in the News Blogspot

<http://polyinthemedia.blogspot.com/2005_08_01_archive.html>

**Questions for discussion:**

1. Given the danger of losing custody of your children in a divorce or breakup, is it best to keep your polyamorous lifestyle a secret from friends and family? Or do you think the support from them, will help in the long run?
2. The general consensus in the Poly community is to keep the court system out of your custody disputes. So you feel that Poly families are more likely to be able to settle their differences amicably due to their poly nature? Or are custody disputes the one place in which no one can control their jealousy?
3. Are you personally raising children in a polyamorous setting or know anyone who may be? If so, how have you/they navigated the legal system regarding school, guardianship, etc.?