

Parenting and legal family formats in Finland

by Aija Valleala ¹

The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples

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Based on the [LawsAndFamilies questionnaire](#) on legal family formats for same-sex and/or different-sex couples (Section 3 – Parenting)

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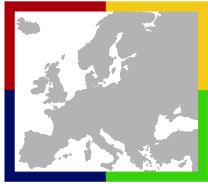
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FamiliesAndSocieties

Disclaimer

This paper and this database contain information with a scientific aim. Nothing in this paper and in this database should be seen as legal advice. Not all nuances and exceptions are included, and there may be errors and further legal developments. The experts, the authors, the editors, the Institut national d'études démographiques and Leiden University cannot be held liable for any inaccurate or incomplete information in this paper or in this database. More particularly, they cannot be held liable for any damage or consequences from the direct or indirect use of contents of this paper or database.

The six sections of the questionnaire

The [interactive LawsAndFamilies Database](#) is based on the [LawsAndFamilies questionnaire](#), which consists of six sections:

- Section 1 – Formalisation
- Section 2 – Income and troubles
- Section 3 – Parenting
- Section 4 – Migration
- Section 5 – Splitting up
- Section 6 – Death

Papers and an interactive database

For each jurisdiction there are therefore six papers like this one. And each of these papers contains the full answers, references and explanations (given by

a legal expert for the jurisdiction concerned) to the questions in one of these six sections. All these papers can be found in open access at www.LawsAndFamilies.eu. There the user also has access to the [interactive part of the LawsAndFamilies Database](#), which can be used to search the whole database and to create comparative overviews for different questions, different years, different countries and/or different legal family formats.

This website also contains references to publications analysing the results of the project, and to some other legal, sociological and statistical publications about same-sex and different-sex families. And it gives information about the methodology used for this questionnaire and database.

About the questionnaire

The [full text of the questionnaire](#) can be found in the paper:

K. Waaldijk, J.M. Lorenzo Villaverde, N. Nikolina & G. Zago, 'The LawsAndFamilies questionnaire on legal family formats for same-sex and/or different-sex couples: Text of the questions and of the accompanying guidance document', *FamiliesAndSocieties Working Paper* 64(2016), www.familiesandsocieties.eu.

The [Guidance document](#) contained in that paper, asked the experts answering the questionnaire to make several assumptions. These included the assumption that the partners have been living together as a couple already for at least two years. Plus the assumption (except for certain questions in Section 4 – Migration) that both partners have the citizenship of the country where they are now both lawfully and habitually residing, and that this is also the country where their relationship would have been formalised and where it would be dissolved.

About the answers

This paper contains the answers, references and explanations – for one jurisdiction – to all questions in one of the six sections of the questionnaire. The answers are presented in columns. Each column is a coloured timeline, representing legal developments for one question for one legal family format.

The year at the top of each coloured timeline is the most recent year for which a question was answered by the author. In the timelines the years given above and below an answer indicate that the answer applied between a certain day in the lower year and a certain day in the higher year. The year "0000" means that the answer applied since an unknown year before 1965. See further the [Guidance document](#).

The following **answer codes and colours** have been used:

Yes	Yes, this is so in the law of this country/jurisdiction, although possibly with a qualifying period of 24 months or less.
Yes, but	Yes, but with exceptions or restrictions, for example a qualifying period of 25 months or more, or only in most parts of the country/jurisdiction, or this is mostly a “dead letter”.
No, but	No, but it may be so exceptionally, or in a very limited way, or in a few parts of the country/jurisdiction, or indirectly, or by using a different legal instrument, or legislation says no while some courts might say yes.
No	No, this is not so in the law of this country/jurisdiction.
Doubt	The law is unclear (the law does not “know” the answer).
?	No information was available.
N/A	Not applicable (for example because this family format is not available in this jurisdiction, or not for same-sex or different-sex couples).
X	This question was not asked for this legal family format.
Open question	Question without answer codes like Yes and No.
Empty cell	For this year the question was not asked or not answered.

The six papers about Finland

The answers concerning Finland can be found in the [interactive database](#) and in the following six papers (all of which are published in open access in: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*, Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu):

Formalisation of legal family formats in Finland by Rainer Hiltunen (Section 1)

Income, troubles and legal family formats in Finland by Aija Valleala (Section 2)

Parenting and legal family formats in Finland by Aija Valleala (Section 3)

Migration and legal family formats in Finland by Rainer Hiltunen (Section 4)

Splitting up and legal family formats in Finland by Rainer Hiltunen (Section 5)

Death and legal family formats in Finland by Rainer Hiltunen (Section 6)

So this paper is based on **Section 3 (Parenting)** of the [LawsAndFamilies questionnaire](#), which contains questions about the following topics:

3.1 Assisted insemination

3.2 IVF

3.3 Surrogacy

3.4 Legal parenthood

3.5 Parental authority

3.6 Parental leave for both parents

3.7 Parental leave for partners

3.8 Grandparents

3.9 Second-parent adoption

3.10 Joint adoption

3.11 Individual adoption

3.12 General background regarding parenting

3.13 Single parenting

3.14 Multiple parenting

In the following pages of this paper, first the answers to questions 3.12, 3.13 and 3.14 are presented, followed by answers to questions 3.1 to 3.11.

3.12 - General background regarding parenting (Open question)

If you consider it useful to provide some general information or comments about (past, present or future) developments and trends in legal policy and case law in your country/jurisdiction, or information on other aspects (socio-legal, political, legal-cultural, etc.) that may be relevant for the understanding your answers above regarding parenting, then please do so here.

The amendments to Marriage Act allowing same-sex couples to marry will enter into force on 1 March 2017.

The amendment will allow joint adoption and joint surname for same-sex couples on the same grounds as it is allowed now for different-sex couples.

Legal parenthood for same-sex couples will not change, because legal parenthood upon birth of a child derives from the Paternity Act which is not gender neutral. The presumption of paternity in marriage will continue to apply only to heterosexual couples.

The new Paternity Act entered into force on 1 January 2016. It made the procedure easier for unmarried cohabiting different-sex couples, who can now have the paternity recognised before the birth of a child. Until now it was only possible after the birth of the child and the procedure was longer and more bureaucratic.

The previous government drafted a Maternity Act which would have allowed the female registered partner of a woman who gets pregnant through IVF to be registered as a legal parent without adoption. The act was not adopted and there is currently an ongoing citizens initiative campaign for the Maternity Act. Citizens' initiative on Maternity Act (KAA 3/2016) did get the required amount of signatures and is currently pending in the Parliament. The act would among others allow female same-sex registered (or in the future married) couples to receive assisted reproduction treatment as a couple. The not-conceiving partner could then be registered as the second mother already before the birth of the child. Currently a second-parent adoption is required for the non-conceiving female spouse to be recognized as the second mother. It is too early to say whether the Act will be adopted by the Parliament or not.

3.13 - Single parenting (Open question)

If there are any developments in legal policy and case law regarding the possibilities of an individual person without a partner to have a child through adoption, medically assisted insemination, and/or IVF, you could indicate that here.

3.14 - Multiple parenting (Open question)

If there are any developments in legal policy or case law regarding possibilities for a child to have more than two parents, you could indicate that here.

Single persons are eligible to adopt and to receive infertility treatments (both MAI and IVF) on the same ground as couples. However, as surrogacy is not allowed, medically assisted procreation is only available to single women and not possible for single men.

The idea of more than two parents is acknowledged but not yet really discussed in legal policy level.

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **A. Valleala, "Parenting and legal family formats in Finland".** In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section3.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.01 - Assisted insemination**

Is it legally possible in this type of relationship to become pregnant through medically assisted insemination using sperm of a donor?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 2007	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2007	2015 Yes 2007	2015 Yes 2007
Yes 0000			Yes 2002	Yes 0000	Yes 0000
			N/A 0000		
References to legal sources: Section 2 in Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006), HE 3/2006 (preparatory works, HE is short for hallituksen esitys = government proposal).		References to legal sources: Section 2 in Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006), HE 3/2006 (preparatory works).		References to legal sources: Section 2 in Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006), HE 3/2006 (preparatory works).	

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>Explanations and nuances: Prior to this Act there was no specific legislation on access to medically assisted procreation. However, before the entry into force of the Act, treatments were provided based on general health care legislation.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: Section 2 in Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments only refers to a couple (woman and man living together in marriage or in a relationship comparable to marriage) and a woman not living in marriage/relationship comparable to marriage. The Act does not explicitly state that a relationship (or a lack of certain relationship) is a condition for receiving treatment, accordingly 'woman not in marriage/relationship comparable to marriage' also covers women in same-sex relationship. This interpretation is supported by the preparatory works.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: Prior to the entry into force of the Act, medically assisted procreation was available for all women regardless of their relationship status, the Act did not change that.</p>	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

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Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.02 - IVF**

Is it legally possible in this type of relationship to become pregnant through in vitro fertilisation (IVF) using donated egg or sperm?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 2007	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2007	2015 Yes 2007	2015 Yes 2007
Yes 0000			Yes 2002	Yes 0000	Yes 0000
			N/A 0000		
References to legal sources: Section 2 of the Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006).		References to legal sources: Section 2 of the Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006).		References to legal sources: Section 2 of the Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006).	
Explanations and nuances: See question 3.01. The law does not differentiate between different methods of medically assisted procreation. IVF is accessible on same grounds as AI.		Explanations and nuances: See under Marriage.		Explanations and nuances: See under Marriage.	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **A. Valleala**, "Parenting and legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section3.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.03 - Surrogacy**

Is it legally possible for both partners in this type of relationship to become the legal parents of a child through the help of a surrogate mother in the country?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 No 2007	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No 2007	2015 No 2007	2015 No 2007
Yes 1990			No 2002	No 0000	No 0000
No 0000			N/A 0000		
<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 in Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006).</p> <p>Case-law from Court of Appeal of Helsinki: HelHO no. 2029, 12.7.2012 (H12/1731) HelHo 2013:4.</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 in Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 in Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments (1237/2006).</p>	

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>Explanations and nuances: Section 8 explicitly prohibits provision of MAP if “there is a reason to presume that the child will be given up for adoption”. Therefore, surrogacy arrangements are not allowed in Finland.</p> <p>Before the Act on Assisted Fertility Treatments was enacted, a gap in legislation allowed even IVF surrogacy. I put yes for 1990–2007 because all surrogacy arrangements were made between that period. 1990 refers to the approximate availability of the treatment rather than change in legislation.</p> <p>However, based on case-law from the Court of Appeal of Helsinki, a decision on paternity issued in a foreign state that is based on a surrogacy agreement is recognised in Finland as long as surrogacy arrangements are legal in the foreign country in question. Accordingly, if the intended father's sperm was used, his paternity can be confirmed in Finland. The intended mother have to adopt the child.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: See under Marriage.</p> <p>In the case of foreign surrogacy such an arrangement would only be possible for male registered partners as the requirement for such an arrangement is that the paternity is recognised in Finland. So far both cases (the two cases from Court of Appeal of Helsinki, see references under marriage) confirming this possibility have concerned heterosexual married couples.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: See under Marriage and Registered partnership.</p> <p>It would not be possible for both partners of a cohabiting couple (both different-sex and same-sex) to become legal parents in the case of foreign surrogacy as second-parent adoption is not allowed for cohabiting couples.</p>	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

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Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.04 - Legal parenthood**

When one partner gives birth, will (or can) the other partner then also become legal parent of the child, without having to go through adoption?
 (For example automatically, or by way of recognition/acknowledgement.)

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 1976	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No 2002	2015 Yes 1976	2015 No 0000
Yes 0000			N/A 0000	Yes 0000	
<p>References to legal sources: Section 2 of the Paternity Act (700/1975).</p> <p>Section 2 of the Paternity Act (11/2015) which will enter into force and replace the previous act on 1 January 2016.</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Section 2 of the Paternity Act (700/1975).</p> <p>Section 9 of the Act on Registered Partnership (950/2001).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Section 2 of the Paternity Act (700/1975).</p> <p>Section 2 of the Paternity Act (11/2015) which will enter into force and replace the previous act on 1 January 2016.</p>	

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>Explanations and nuances: The husband of the mother is automatically registered as the father.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: Second-parent adoption is required.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: The man who is in relationship with the mother or who has donated the sperm can recognise the child as his and be registered as the father, no adoption required.</p> <p>Same-sex cohabiting couples: not possible, and second-parent adoption is not allowed.</p>	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **A. Valleala, "Parenting and legal family formats in Finland".** In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section3.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.05 - Parental authority**

Is joint parental authority/responsibility possible for the couple, while only one of the partners is the legal parent of the child?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 1984	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2002	2015 Yes 1984	2015 Yes 2010
?			N/A 0000	?	Yes, but 1984
					?
References to legal sources: Section 9, subsection 4 of the Act on Child Custody and Right of Access (361/1983).		References to legal sources: Section 9, subsection 4 of the Act on Child Custody and Right of Access (361/1983).		References to legal sources: Section 9, subsection 4 of the Act on Child Custody and Right of Access (361/1983). Supreme Court judgement KKO 2010:16 on awarding custody to the cohabiting same-sex partner of the legal parent.	

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>Explanations and nuances: A court may order that one or several persons, who have consented thereto, to be awarded custody of the child jointly or instead of the parents.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances:</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: Legally yes, but in practice the courts have been reluctant to award custody based on same-sex cohabitation, at least until the Supreme Court judgement on the matter.</p>	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **A. Valleala, "Parenting and legal family formats in Finland".** In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section3.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.06 - Parental leave for both parents**

When both partners are the legal parents of a child, does each partner then have a statutory right to paid or unpaid parental leave?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 2005	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2009	2015 Yes 2005	2015 N/A 0000
Yes 1978			N/A 2002	Yes 1985	
No 1963			N/A 0000	No 1978	
No 0000				No 1963	

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>References to legal sources: Chapter 9, Health Insurance Act 1224/2004.</p> <p>Section 23 of the 1963 Health Insurance Act, amended in 1977 (1086/1977) (repealed).</p> <p>Section 21 & 23, Health Insurance Act 364/1963 (repealed).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Chapter 9, Sections 16 & 17, Health Insurance Act 1224/2004.</p> <p>Section 9.2 of the Act on Registered Partnership (950/2001), amended in 2009 (391/2009).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Chapter 9, Health Insurance Act 1224/2004</p> <p>Section 23 of the 1963 Health Insurance Act, amended in 1985 (32/1985)(repealed), HE 203/1984.</p> <p>Section 21 & 23, Health Insurance Act 364/1963 (repealed).</p>	
<p>Explanations and nuances: As a rule, all permanent residents of Finland are covered under the National Health Insurance scheme and have right to paid parental leave when they have a child.</p> <p>If the parents are married, the father is eligible for paid parental leave if the couple lives apart due to work and not because of a break-up.</p> <p>Prior to 1978 only mothers had the right to parental (maternity) leave.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: Before 2009 second-parent adoption was not allowed for same-sex registered couples and therefore they could not both be legal parents of a child.</p> <p>See also question 3.07.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: Cohabiting different-sex couples: the father has to live together with the mother in order to be eligible for paid parental leave, unless the child is domiciled with the father and the father is the primary care taker.</p> <p>Cohabiting same-sex couples: it is very unlikely that both partners are legal parents as second-parent adoption is not possible for cohabiting same-sex couples.</p>	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

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Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.07 - Parental leave for partners**

When only one partner is the legal parent of a child, does each partner then have a statutory right to paid or unpaid parental leave?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 2005	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2007	2015 Yes 2005	2015 No 0000
Doubt 1978			No 2002	Doubt 1985	
No 0000			N/A 0000	No 0000	
<p>References to legal sources: Chapter 9 Section 1, Health Insurance Act 1224/2004, HE 50/2004 (preparatory works, HE is short for hallituksen esitys = government proposal).</p> <p>See also references under 3.06.</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Chapter 9, Section 16, Health Insurance Act 1224/2004, amended in 2006 (1342/2006), HE 112/2006.</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Chapter 9 Section 1, Health Insurance Act 1224/2004, HE 50/2004.</p> <p>See also references under 3.06.</p>	

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>Explanations and nuances: In the preparatory works of the current Health Insurance Act (HE 50/2004) it is explicitly stated (p. 43) that the man who takes care of the child as a father has right to parental allowance (and thus to parental leave) and the recognition of paternity or certainty of biological paternity is NOT a prerequisite for receiving the parental allowance. This has most likely been the practice even before the current Health Insurance Act (i.e. prior to 2005) and the practice was just codified with the new law.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: The partner of the legal parent has right to parental leave if 1) after registration of the partnership, one of the partners has a child or one of the partners starts caring for a child of under 7 years of age; and 2) the insured lives in the same household with the child and the child's parent.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: In the preparatory works of the current Health Insurance Act (HE 50/2004) it is explicitly stated (p. 43) that the man who takes care of the child as a father has right to parental allowance (and thus to parental leave) and the recognition of paternity or certainty of biological paternity is NOT a prerequisite for receiving the parental allowance. This has most likely been the practice even before the current Health Insurance Act (i.e. prior to 2005) and the practice was just codified with the new law.</p>	

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Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.08 - Grandparents**

Do grandparents have a statutory right to visit the children in this type of relationship?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 No 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No 2002	2015 No 0000	2015 No 0000
			N/A 0000		
References to legal sources: No legislation on the matter.		References to legal sources:		References to legal sources:	
Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:		Explanations and nuances:	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **A. Valleala**, "Parenting and legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section3.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.09 - Second-parent adoption**

When only one partner is the legal parent of a child, does the other partner then have the possibility of becoming the child's second parent by way of adoption?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 2012	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes 2009	2015 No 2012	2015 No 2012
Yes 1979			No 2002	No 0000	No 0000
? 1925			N/A 0000		

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 of the Adoption Act (Adoptiolaki) (22/2012).</p> <p>Previous acts (repealed):</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki lapseksiottamisesta) (153/1985).</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki lapseksiottamisesta) (32/1979).</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki ottolapsista) (208/1925).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 of the Adoption Act (22/2012).</p> <p>Section 9.2 of the Act on Registered Partnership (950/2001), amended in 2009 (391/2009).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 of the Adoption Act (Adoptiolaki) (22/2012).</p>	
<p>Explanations and nuances:</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances:</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances:</p>	

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Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.10 - Joint adoption**

Can partners jointly adopt a child?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 Yes 2012	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 No 2012	2015 No 0000	2015 No 0000
Yes 1979			No 2002		
Yes 1925			N/A 0000		

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 of the Adoption Act (Adoptiolaki) (22/2012).</p> <p>Previous acts (repealed):</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki lapseksiottamisesta) (153/1985).</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki lapseksiottamisesta) (32/1979).</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki ottolapsista) (208/1925).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 and 9 of the Adoption Act (22/2012).</p> <p>Section 9 of Act on Registered Partnership (950/2001).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 and 9 of the Adoption Act (22/2012).</p>	
<p>Explanations and nuances:</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: This should be possible in 2017 when the amendments to the Marriage Act allowing same-sex marriage enter into force.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances:</p>	

Jurisdiction: **Finland**

Source: **A. Valleala**, "Parenting and legal family formats in Finland". In: K. Waaldijk et al. (eds.), *The LawsAndFamilies Database – Aspects of legal family formats for same-sex and different-sex couples*. Paris: INED, 2017, www.LawsAndFamilies.eu, [LawsAndFamilies-FI-Section3.pdf](#) (please use this full citation when citing any information from this table).

Section: **3 - Parenting**

Question: **3.11 - Individual adoption**

Can one partner in this type of relationship individually adopt a child?

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
2015 No, but 2012	2015 N/A 0000	2015 N/A 0000	2015 Yes, but 2012	2015 Yes, but 2012	2015 Yes, but 2012
No, but 1979			Yes 2002	Yes 1979	Yes 1979
? 1925			N/A 0000	Yes 1925	Yes 1925

Marriage		Registered partnership		Cohabitation	
diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex	diff.-sex	same-sex
<p>References to legal sources: Section 8 of the Adoption Act (Adoptiolaki) (22/2012).</p> <p>Previous acts (repealed):</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki lapseksiottamisesta) (153/1985).</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki lapseksiottamisesta) (32/1979).</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki ottolapsista) (208/1925).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Adoption Act in general.</p> <p>Section 13 of the Adoption Act (22/2012).</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki lapseksiottamisesta) (153/1985).</p>		<p>References to legal sources: Adoption Act in general.</p> <p>Section 13 of the Adoption Act (Adoptiolaki) (22/2012).</p> <p>Previous acts (repealed):</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki lapseksiottamisesta) (153/1985).</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki lapseksiottamisesta) (32/1979).</p> <p>Adoption Act (Laki ottolapsista) (208/1925).</p>	
<p>Explanations and nuances: Married different-sex couples can only adopt jointly. A married spouse may adopt alone if the other spouse cannot validly express their will due to an illness or disability or if the whereabouts of the other spouse is unknown.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: In the case when a registered partner wants to adopt a minor child, the adoption may be granted only if the other partner consents.</p>		<p>Explanations and nuances: In the case when a cohabiting partner wants to adopt a minor child, the adoption may be granted only if the other partner consents.</p>	