



Coupledness *versus* Parenthood

Towards a recognition of Platonic Parenting

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RETHINKIN_

Rethinking legal kinship and family studies in the Low Countries

Scientific Research Network of the Research Foundation Flanders

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Current evolutions

- Parenting *after* partnering
- Accommodating “social parenthood” of parent’s new partner



Current evolutions

- Paradigm: “parents” should *have or have had* a romantic relationship with each other in order
 - to found a family
 - to have their family life with the child protected



Take-home message

There should be no absolute rule

that a child's parents are, or have been, in a romantic relationship with each other

to have access to the rights to found a family or to protection of family life

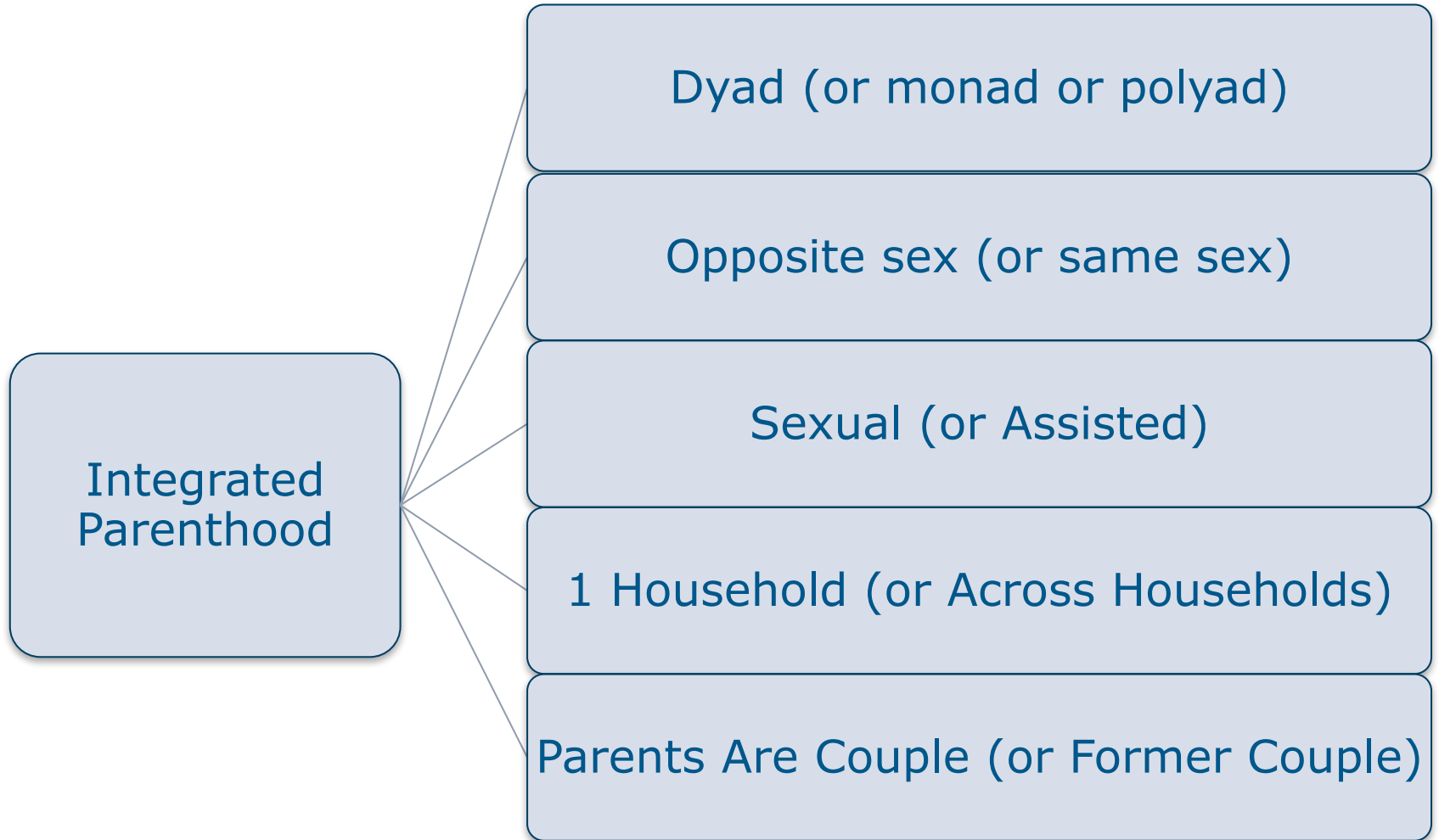


Structure

- Sexual Family Paradigm
- Current Law
- Why Channelling?
- Future Law



Sexual Family Paradigm





Current Law

Filiation by Blood: “*pater is est...*” etc

Filiation by Assisted Reproduction: (singles or) couples – exception Belgium

Adoption: by or within couples only

Parental Responsibilities: step-parents and social parents – exception Belgium





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Arguments for Channeling

Dominant Performances

Children Need Stability and Permanence

Children Need Their Biological Parents

“(T)he human mother needs a mate”

Social Science



Future Law

Functional equivalents

A Parent-State Status

A Parent-Partner Status



Conclusion

*“The human infant needs a father
and the human mother needs a mate”*

Yet it need not be the same person(s)

Parenthood can be fragmented and fluid