

A man can be a 'wife' and a woman a 'husband' under new UK govt rules

By Hilary White

WESTMINSTER, June 28, 2013 (LifeSiteNews.com) – From now on, in government documents in the UK, the terms "husband" and "wife" will not have any relation to the sex of the person they describe; a man can be a wife and a woman, a husband.

In anticipation of the passage of their same-sex "marriage" bill, the British government has drawn up a set of rules that will now be followed on all official documents on how human relations will be addressed.

In the explanatory notes in "The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill," the government has "clarified" that the bill will not only re-define marriage, but all the terminology associated with it as well. "'Husband' here will include a man or a woman in a same sex marriage, as well as a man married to a woman. In a similar way, 'wife' will include a woman married to another woman or a man married to a man," says the new footnote.

The notes go on to say that this will not be an absolute rule but may change according to circumstances. "The term 'husband' will in future legislation include a man who is married to another man (but not a woman in a marriage with another woman); and 'wife' will include a woman who is married to another woman (but not a man married to another man) unless specific alternative provision is made," declares the drafted legislation. A spokesman for the Coalition for Marriage told the *Daily Telegraph* that the notes are evidence that this bill will create intense legal confusion. "We always knew the government would tie itself in knots trying to redefine marriage, and this shows what a ridiculous mess they've created." "This mangling of the English language shows what happens when politicians meddle with marriage. They're in cloud cuckoo land," the group said.

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The bill was passed resoundingly in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and is currently in the review stage in a Lords committee. Commenting on the government's notes, Lord Tebbit said, "It sounds not merely like gobbledegook but the reversal of the natural and normal meaning of words." The same procedure has been followed in all jurisdictions that have created "same-sex marriage." In Scotland in 2007, nurses and other health care workers were told by the National Health Service that they should avoid using the terms "mum" and "dad" to refer to parents since these could be considered offensive to homosexual couples with children.

In [Iowa last year](#), a district judge ordered the state to list a lesbian couple as the "parents" of a stillborn child on his death certificate. Polk County District Judge Robert Hutchison justified his order under the state's same-sex "marriage" ruling, saying, "Since biology is the only relevant difference between a mother's husband and a mother's wife," both "are similarly situated as non-gestational parents."

In France, the government has said it will eliminate the terms "mother" and "father." All references to mothers and fathers are to be changed to "parents." France's gay "marriage" law also includes no provisions for conscientious objection by state-appointed marriage ministers.

In Spain, the Socialist government announced that on all documentation related to families, parents would be listed as "progenitor A" and "progenitor B." Similar actions have been taken by governments in Ontario and Prince Edward Island, the US state of Massachusetts and the Australian state of Victoria. The province of Ontario banned "mother" and "father" – as well as the terms "wife," "husband," "widow," and "widower" – from all statutes. In 2005, in Prince Edward Island, the Conservative government proposed to amend the law to remove all references to husbands and wives in favour of the gender-neutral "spouse."