

You can still have a family

I awoke one summer morning to my sister's phone call. Sensing some sort of sibling emergency, I frantically picked up. The moment I heard her voice, I knew something was wrong; she sounded really upset and simply stated, "James backed out."

My sister, Sabrina, and her partner, Ann, have been together for seven years. For a while, they both discussed having a family in the future when Sabrina completed nursing school and when they would be financially stable. They had asked James, my sister's best friend, to be the sperm donor and he agreed, but with his new relationship, James started having doubts and backed out on them.

My heart started to race. My sister handed Ann the phone, "I can't think of a better man than you. You're one of the most responsible men that I know. And you are the closest thing I will ever get to having a child with Sabrina." I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Both my sister and sister-in-law were asking me to be their sperm donor at eighteen years old. I remember when I was fifteen that I wanted to be their donor both in part to bring them happiness and to give my parents a legitimate grandchild. The reason I say legitimate is because both Sabrina and I are LGBT, so any hopes that my mother had of grandchildren were tossed out the window when I came out to her. In her mind, having two gay children meant that she would never have blood-related grandchildren, something almost tragic in Guyanese and Indian culture. But that could all change if I were to donate my sperm to Ann so that she and my sister could have a baby together. I couldn't believe that I could actually give my parents a grandchild that they could feel was their own.

After that conversation I realized something: that LGBTQ individuals *can* have families. It was something that I had always known, but the opposition to same-sex couples starting their own families is so prevalent that sometimes this dream seems nothing more than a fantasy. By accepting same-sex marriage, we can open the doors for those couples to have children. If we do that, then society says they will either a) sexually exploit the child for their own perverse pleasure, or b) teach the child to be gay. Such notions have barred many same-sex couples from being able to having children or adopting children.



This author has chosen to remain anonymous because they have not revealed the origins of their daughters birth to their entire family and doesn't wish to preemptively cause that conversation to occur. LAMBDA respects the wishes of the author to not be identified.