



Changeling Aspects

In affiliation with Transbridge Townsville

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WIVES, SPOUSES AND PARTNERS 25-07-2011

Much is written and talked about concerning the plight of Trans people who stay married after sex affirmation surgery.

However, there is nothing written or talked about concerning the plight of the “wives, spouses and partners” Do they exist? Yes, they certainly do and have suffered intolerably under the legislations that until recently were in force. One is still in force, that being the legislation by all States and Territories requiring the Trans person to divorce.

There is no mention of how the Wife, Spouse or Partner is affected in all of these situations if remaining married after sex affirmation surgery of their partner. Surely they are an aggrieved party to this if they wish to remain in the marriage, as many do. Because they were willing to stand by their Trans partner due to their commitment to their marriage vows, they were deemed to be part of a “same sex couple”, thus listing them as lesbian, which they found to be both abhorrent and untrue.

They along with their partner were to suffer due to this deeming by way of losing access as a married couple to Medicare, PBS, Centrelink, superannuation, inheritance and self esteem, due to the fact, they felt their lives had been taken away from them.

After several years of fighting to have their rights returned as a legally married couple, in January 2009 they were no longer to be deemed to be a “same sex couple” In March 2009, they were recognised by the Federal Attorney-General’s Office as being legally married. This, we understand was part of the “Same Sex Act 2009” provisions. This meant they finally had all rights restored under the Marriage Act 1961.

There has never been any attempt at an apology for this gross act of discrimination against wives, spouses and partners. Many now suffer because of the years of being considered as lesbians by the governments of the day. Several are receiving counselling because of their problems, which include breakdowns of health and deterioration of their wellbeing.

Many of my friends in this position are close to breaking point due to the lack of understanding and empathy involved. How much more must they endure in order to have full recognition of what to them is an on going commitment to their marriage and the full recognition of the Trans partner? Their health in many cases is at risk and that will come back to health departments across the Nation.

This is destroying couples who have been put through enough over the years due to having to come to terms with a partner’s Transsexualism and their change. They are now having a huge



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burden imposed on them as they wish to remain married, but are looked upon as pariahs by State and Territory governments because they wish to remain married. However, they are still there for their partner and are willing to have thrust on them an abhorrent situation, as they are told that in order for their partner to amend their birth certificate; they are required (FORCED) to divorce.

There is no law in Australia that can force them to do this, and to stand up in Court and use the only wording for a divorce in Australia “Irretrievable Breakdown” would be tantamount to performing perjury.

There are couples who have been married for 40, 47 and 50 years that have no intention of divorcing because of the above requirements at State and Territory levels. Have the costs involved, not just in monetary terms, but in health and understanding these couples wishes to honour their marriage vows been taken into consideration? The health factor plays an immense part in this scenario, as couples in their 60s and 70s should not be placed in this despicable situation

It appears a situation where we have a yes and no approach to this problem, with the federal government understanding their plight, but the States and Territories totally unaware of the harm they are doing, all because they fear setting a precedent for “same sex marriage”

Kathy Anne Noble
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