

Bizarre Florida law which values marriage above parental rights BANS biological dad from rights to his newborn son because his girlfriend was married to someone else when they conceived

A father who was thrilled when he heard his girlfriend was pregnant has been told in court that he has no legal rights to his son.

Though Christopher Farrell, 31, is the biological father, he was told by a Florida court that he has no rights to see, talk to, support, or help raise his son, because the mother is married to another man and the couple wants to raise the child together.



© Chris Farrell/ Facebook
When Farrell learned his girlfriend was pregnant, he was elated.

He decorated a room for the child in his house in Loxahatchee, Florida and even held the mother a baby shower, though she never showed up.

At the time, he did not realize that this was because the mother decided to raise the child with her husband.

Florida law says that 'if the child is born in an intact marriage and if the husband and mother want to remain married the (biological) father has zero rights' said law attorney Susan Savard to the Palm Beach Post.



© Chris Farrell/ Facebook

Farrell is pictured decorating a room for the child in his house in Loxahatchee, Florida



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The law comes from a notion that no child should suffer the stigma of illegitimacy, lawyer Elisha Roy told the Post. She said: 'The big issue, the underlying theme in Florida, is about a child's right to legitimacy so no one should be able to come in and disrupt the sanctity of the marriage. It's not the dad's right to be a dad. It's the child's right to have legitimacy.'



Christopher Farrell posted photos of the ultrasounds to his Facebook page, clearly elated that he would soon be a father. Though he did not realize at the time that the mother would be able to use Florida law to keep him from legally being a father

Farrell and his girlfriend had a close relationship, and his lawyer used that to argue his rights to parenthood, the Post reports. The pair worked together and lived together for about six months when the mother was considering leaving her husband. After she returned to him, they remained friends and he went with her to obstetrician appointments. He said he paid for doctors, help equip the nursery, and reached out to the husband.



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© Chris Farrell/ Facebook

After the child's birth, his mother (center) allowed Farrell to meet him for about 30 minutes. The Post reports that he stood on a sidewalk and cradled his son, crying



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According to him he isn't trying to break up a marriage, he just wants to see the child. His lawyer, Rebekah Brown-Wiseman, told the post that she expected the judge's decision, but hoped that an appellate court will accept her argument and overturn the antiquated law.

Farrell, though, had some hope.

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The Post reports that he stood on a sidewalk and cradled his son, crying.

After paternity was rejected and the case was thrown out, the lawyer representing the mother and husband claimed that the case was frivolous.

Attorney Christopher Jette plans to ask the judge to make Brown-Wiseman and Farrell pay thousands of dollars back to him for fighting a case he believes should have never gone to court to begin with.

Farrell expressed his heartbreak to the Post.

He said: 'I was driving behind her on the way to work the other day, knowing my son is in that vehicle and that I don't get to see him.'