



Jacqueline Michelle Chappell and Michelle Franke with their daughter Rose

## **Affidavit of Jacqueline Michelle Chappell**





9. I gave birth to Rose, and although Rose's birth was a joyful event for both of us, we later felt humiliated when a hospital administrator came to my room to collect information for Rose's birth certificate and the administrator asked repeatedly if I really did not know the name of the father, suggesting that I could be lying. The administrator seemed not to be able to understand that Michelle, Rose, and I are a planned family. If Michelle and I could have explained to this administrator that we were married, this would have helped her understand that Rose already had two parents.

10. Michelle later secured a parental relationship to Rose through a second parent adoption.

11. Michelle and I are active members of Community United Church of Christ.

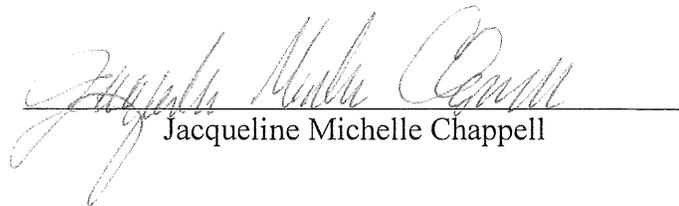
12. Michelle and I seek to marry not only for the legal recognition and cultural acceptance it would bring, but to express our love for each other and the value of our family. Rose understands that our family isn't treated equally to others and she often says, "Love is love, why does it matter who you love? Why does anyone have to stand in our way?" Being able to marry would help her feel included as opposed to how she feels now.

13. Being in a civil union is simply not enough. Shortly after Michelle and I entered into our civil union, I attempted to register a "life change" for health insurance purposes with my employer, the State of Illinois. However, to this day, I have not been able to make that update because "civil union" is not an option, "marriage" is. It is as if my employer, the State of Illinois, does not see my civil union as a "life change".

14. Michelle and I are both over the age of 18, have the capacity to contract, are not within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity prohibited by law for a legal marriage, are not wards under a guardianship, and are not legally married to any other person.

15. On or about the 29th day of May, 2012, Michelle and I appeared in person, prepared to tender the \$60 application fee and identification documents, at the office of the Cook County Clerk to request an application for a marriage license so that we could marry each other in the state of Illinois. An employee of the Cook County Clerk denied us an application for a marriage license because we are a same-sex couple.

16. I hereby declare, under penalties of perjury, that the facts stated in this affidavit are personally known to me, and that they are true.

  
Jacqueline Michelle Chappell

Sworn to before me this 14th day of March, 2013

  
Notary Public





Michelle Chappell and Michelle Franke with their daughter Rose

## **Affidavit of Michelle Franke**



COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN     )  
  )  
STATE OF ILLINOIS         )     ss.

**AFFIDAVIT OF MICHELLE FRANKE**

Michelle Franke, having been duly sworn, states as follows:

1. I am one of the Plaintiffs in this lawsuit.
2. I was born on June 17, 1965, and I am 47 years old.
3. I am in a permanent, loving, and committed relationship of 21 years with Michelle Chappell, and we wish to marry. Michelle also has provided an affidavit, and we will try not to repeat each other.
4. I was born in California and grew up in Texas.
5. I have resided with Michelle and our daughter, Rose (9), in Champaign, Champaign County, Illinois, since 2006.
6. I work as a fundraiser for the University of Illinois. Michelle and I are active members of Community United Church of Christ, where I served as the moderator of the church board.
7. Michelle and I made commitments to each other in a holy union ceremony in 1997, entered into a civil union ceremony in our home church in Champaign, Illinois.
8. Michelle and I wish to marry in part so that we will be considered a family automatically.
9. Rose was conceived via anonymous donor insemination. Even though Michelle and I planned her conception and birth together, I had to do an obtrusive and expensive second parent adoption to secure my parental relationship to Rose.

10. When I was involved in a court mediation Michelle wasn't even allowed in the room with me because she wasn't considered my spouse. I wish she could have been there to provide support.

11. For me, civil unions label our family as second class. The legislature created something different for us instead of just letting us have the same recognition that other families take for granted.

12. Recently, Rose was sick. It was after hours and her pediatrician's office was long closed so we took her to a Convenient Care Center. I felt pure frustration when trying to get her seen by someone and we had to explain that both Michelle and I were her mothers and were met with confused looks. I constantly feel like I need to be on guard when asked about our family because I am expecting confusion, judgment or even hostility. Being able to say that I am married would help me to not feel like our family is vulnerable.

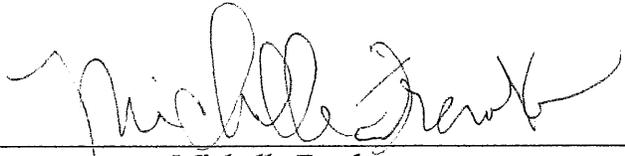
13. I'm reminded everyday that I'm not married. I am disabled with Spinal Muscular Atrophy and use a motorized wheelchair for mobility, and need assistance with activities associated with daily living. I fear that Michelle will be denied access to me when a medical situation arises in the future.

14. Michelle and I are both over the age of 18, have the capacity to contract, are not within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity prohibited by law for a legal marriage, are not wards under a guardianship, and are not legally married to any other person.

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16. I hereby declare, under penalties of perjury, that the facts stated in this affidavit are personally known to me, and that they are true.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Franke

Sworn to before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

