

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE STATUS OF CHILDREN (ASSISTED REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY) ACT

Why is this law important?

1 More and more babies in Singapore are being conceived through Assisted Reproduction Technology (ART). No child conceived through ART should be left legally parentless.

What does the law clarify?

2 Passed in August 2013, the Status of Children (Assisted Reproduction Technology) Act clarifies:

- The legal parentage & status of children conceived through ART; and
- The legal parentage and status of children in cases of ART mix-up.

3 Details on how legal parenthood is determined can be found in the accompanying infographic.

4 In cases of ART mix-ups, the default parents are determined as if the mix-up had not occurred and child was brought about with the intended egg, sperm or embryo. Any interested party may apply to Court within 2 years from the date of discovery of the mix-up, to be declared as the father or mother of the child.

Who does the law affect?

5 The changes will affect ART children born on or after the date of the commencement of the Act.

6 For children conceived through ART before the commencement date of the proposed Act, an application may be made to declare parentage within 2 years from the commencement date, or in an ART mix-up, 2 years from the date the mix-up was discovered.

What are the other effects of the law?

7 The Evidence Act has been amended to bring in relevant evidence (e.g. DNA tests) to prove the paternity of the child.

8 Section 3(1) of the Legitimacy Act is amended such that a child is legitimised where the child's parents subsequently marry and either parent (not just the father) is domiciled in Singapore.