

# PRESS EXAMINER

## Reality Television Show “Sister Wives” Stars Cite Gay Marriage Ruling to Justify Polygamy

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September 4, 2015

In light of the Supreme Court’s gay marriage legalization, Sister Wives’ Kody Brown and his four spouses are gearing up for a fight. This goes against the teachings in the Holy Bible which clearly states that monogamy should be practised in all marriages.

“This case is about criminalisation of consensual relations and there are 21st-century cases rather than 19th-century cases that control”, the lawyer added.

“It is clear that states can no longer use criminal codes to coerce or punish those who choose to live in consensual but unpopular unions”, attorney Jonathan Turley said in the filing.

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, however, appealed the ruling, asserting that “polygamist communities are rampant with sexual abuse of children and women” so the state has a “rational basis, and compelling interest, in averting the social harms associated with polygamy and polygamist practices”.

The Brown family and their 17 children, who formerly lived in Lehi, Utah, but now are in Las Vegas, are members of the Apostolic United Brethren, a Utah-based church that follows plural marriage doctrine. Reflecting on how marriage has changed over the years, it appears that the situation Kody Brown has created with four wives could be covered under the civil liberties declared by the court, leaving Utah with no choice but to change their state laws.

In a new blog post yesterday, The Cato Institute, an influential political think tank, said they support the Browns’ argument because they believe the state’s opposition doesn’t align with the First Amendment rights granted to the Browns. The case will be considered this fall.

The “Sister Wives” program has thousands of people tune in to the television program to see how a family comes together with more than one wife. He filed suit challenging the law.

“Telling people you’re married, even if it isn’t legally true, isn’t the kind of harmful speech any government has the right to censor, let alone criminalize”, the authors said in a statement. “This happens because Utah defines criminal bigamy...to include saying “I do” in a wedding ceremony, or saying “that’s my wife” about someone one lives with, even when everyone knows that the marriage is not legally recognized”.

U.S. District Court Judge Clark Waddoups overturned Utah's ban on polygamy in December 2013, and the Browns want the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold Waddoups' ruling.