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National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Applauds Ruling Granting Adoption Rights to Gay Father

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The **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force applauds** today's ruling by a Florida judge that allows a gay father to adopt two foster children he has cared for since December 2004. Florida law prohibits gay and lesbian people from adopting children, but Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Cindy Lederman ruled the law violates the equal protection rights of the father and the children's right to permanency provided under federal and state law. Lederman declared there was no legal or scientific reason for sexual orientation alone to prohibit anyone from adopting.

Statement by Rea Carey, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"For far too long, senseless discrimination has prevented children in Florida from receiving the stability and permanence they so desperately need. This ruling is a glimmer of sanity in a time when some think it is okay to deny others the fundamental right to adopt and serve as a loving parent.

"We applaud Judge Lederman for her sound and just ruling, which strengthens families and communities. This is a profound personal victory for this family, and a critical step toward equality."