Building Families Through Assisted Reproductive Technology
A successful assisted third party reproductive procedure needs more than a great medical doctor. It also needs a great legal team.

If your family building journey involves egg or sperm donation, embryo donation, or surrogacy, you will need to take legal steps to secure your parental rights. Same sex couples—married or not—face additional challenges due to lingering ambiguities in Michigan law even after the U.S. Supreme Court marriage equality decision. These family building techniques require preparation of specialized agreements; court proceedings to declare parental rights and custody and to obtain an appropriate birth certificate; and sometimes adoption proceedings.

At the law firm of Dykema Gossett PLLC, we have a dedicated Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) team of attorneys, paralegals, and administrative staff to help you navigate the legal landscape. We prepare the appropriate agreements (taking into consideration the laws of other states if not all the parties live in Michigan); review and comment upon service agreements with IVF providers and donor agencies; prepare and file all necessary court proceedings and attend all court hearings; and work with the hospital where the baby will be born to facilitate a smooth birth experience.

We’ve helped people throughout the state and nationally to work through ART legal issues. We are well known to most IVF clinics and egg donation agencies in Michigan. We strive to deliver excellent legal services in a compassionate and caring environment that puts you first.

About Dykema

Dykema is a leading national law firm with more than 400 attorneys & professionals in fifteen offices throughout the country. Our services cover the legal needs of individuals and businesses. Once your family is created and legally recognized, Dykema will be able to help you take care of important follow-up legal needs to keep your family protected no matter what life brings.
Meet Our Team

Joanne R. Lax

Joanne started her legal career at Dykema in 1978 after graduating magna cum laude from the University of Michigan Law School. She combines health care law with her ART/adoption practice. Unquestionably, Joanne finds her ART/adoption practice to be the most satisfying aspect of her professional services. As she says, few other areas of the law allow her to make such a positive difference in people’s lives. Joanne is one of the pioneers in surrogacy law in Michigan, steering clients clear of the many restrictions in Michigan law and encouraging courts to be innovative in the absence of specific precedent. Her guiding principles are always legal accuracy and customer service. In her approximately 40 years of law practice, Joanne has earned many honors and accolades:

- Named “Lawyer of the Year” for Health Care law by Best Lawyers®, 2012
- Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America® for Health Care Law.
- Named a Michigan Leading Lawyer in the areas of Adoption & Reproductive Technology and Health Law by the Leading Lawyers Network.
- Named a Top Lawyer by dbusiness Magazine for Health Care Law.
- Recipient of an AV® Preeminent™ Rating by Martindale-Hubbell.
- Chair, Health Care Law Section, State Bar of Michigan 2009—10.
- Fellow, Health Care Law Section, State Bar of Michigan.
- Member, Phi Betta Kappa.
- Member, Order of the Coif.

Christyn M. Scott

Christyn has worked closely with Joanne over the last several years achieving successful results for Dykema’s ART clients. Christyn is an experienced litigator, both at the trial court and appellate level. She is comfortable in the courtroom, and will advocate strenuously for you and your family regardless of bureaucratic or other obstacles. Christyn graduated from Oakland University cum laude in 2001 and from Michigan State University College of Law magna cum laude in 2004, where she received the Dean Charles King Scholarship for her academic performance. Christyn has received several significant awards and recognitions:

- Named as an Up and Coming Lawyer by Michigan Lawyer’s Weekly in 2011
- Named as a Rising Star by Michigan Super Lawyers’ Magazine from 2013—2016
- Named as a Top Woman Lawyer by Hour Magazine, 2016

Erin C. Holcomb

Erin is a paralegal with more than 20 years’ experience with Dykema. Erin is a graduate of Oakland University and attended the Institute for Paralegal Training in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Erin assists with document production and signing, and case management.

Beth Walters

Beth is the administrative glue for the team. Handling scheduling, document management, and preparation of court filings, Beth will be there to help make your Dykema experience as smooth and hassle-free as possible.

Contact Information

For further details about the assisted reproductive technology services of Dykema, contact one of our assisted reproductive technology attorneys:

Joanne R. Lax
248-203-0816
jlax@dykema.com

Christyn M. Scott
248-203-0746
cscott@dykema.com
Exceptional service. Dykema delivers.

For over 90 years, Dykema has provided exemplary legal and consulting services to North America’s greatest companies, business leaders, entrepreneurs and individuals. As our clients have grown, so have we, expanding from Midwestern roots to become one of the nation’s largest law firms, with offices from coast to coast.

www.dykema.com
California | Illinois | Michigan | Minnesota | Texas | Washington, D.C.