

think Senator Withem has said before...questioned my legal abilities, and you're free to do that, but my reading of the statute, or excuse me, the Supreme Court opinions is that the court did use this as one of the bases for their determining that the balancing of parental rights versus the rights of the minor to privacy. The second issue Senator Ashford, as I mentioned to him, the question of equal protection. If I could ask Senator Ashford a couple questions.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Ashford, do you know, is stepparent defined in statute, or is it defined in this statute?

SENATOR ASHFORD: I don't know if it is or not.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Okay.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I mean it could be, I suppose.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Is...

SENATOR ASHFORD: Well, grandparents weren't mentioned in the Minnesota statute either, that's why I wonder if that opinion applies. I mean just if we get a dialogue here, I mean that would be my concern, is the Minn...the Hodgson case, there was no mention of stepparent or grandparent.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Right, and I'll touch on that in a second. The point I'm trying to make is that stepparent is not defined right now. We run into a problem, if I'm married right now, if I get divorced and I remarry, my son then apparently has a stepparent. Now, if I get divorced again, and remarried again, does my child now have two stepparents, or does my child, does one lose stepparent status and move on and that's transferred to somebody else? The problem is stepparent has no definition in law, it has no legal status. We are allowing stepparent to be included, and we don't...we have a problem with as far as what that is. So there is a vagueness question, in the first place. Second, as far as that tying into a question of equal protection, does that stepparent then have rights, or why is a parent not notified, if I'm divorced again, and my wife's new husband is notified, or has the right to be notified and not me, and I'm the natural father. I am not being protected on an equal basis with somebody who has absolutely no rights in that