

FamilyLife Blended® Radio Transcript

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Legal: Stepparents & the Law 2

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Ron: You may have a deep bond with your stepchild, but you can't give permission for a dental cleaning.

Announcer: For FamilyLife Blended®, here's Ron Deal.

Ron: Yeah, family law in the U.S. says a child can only have two parents. So, outside of legally adopting a stepchild, stepparents of 15 years have fewer rights than foster parents of a couple of weeks. And if you intend, when you die, to leave your stepchildren an inheritance, you better have a will because intestacy and probate laws don't recognize them as valid recipients.

And, if you're not confused yet, the federal government will let you claim them as dependent children on your taxes, but state law won't let you sign their field trip permission form. What's the point? When it comes to stepfamilies and the law, don't make any assumptions. For FamilyLife Blended, I'm Ron Deal.

Announcer: To find out more visit familylifeblended.com.

FamilyLife Blended with Ron Deal is a production of FamilyLife®.

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