

ABOUT US

# AIRTALK

Weekdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
with Larry Mantle



Support all the great programming on KPCC, including AirTalk.

SHARE THIS:

AirTalk for February 12, 2013

Facebook (74)

Twitter (9)

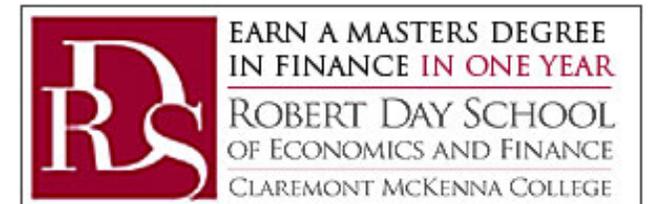
Google+

Email

Print

## The new modern family includes non-romantic co-parents

AirTalk | February 12th, 2013, 10:46am



Become a KPCC Sponsor

### ABOUT AIRTALK

STAY CONNECTED

Join *AirTalk* with Larry Mantle for lively and in-

[Add your comments](#)

 Listen  
Now



[22 min 59  
sec]

[Download](#)



John Moore/Getty Images

People looking for a non-romantic partner to raise a child with are taking their search online.

Love, marriage and a baby carriage - that's the traditional picture of starting a family. But what if Mr. or Ms. Right never appears? Is there a non-traditional option for prospective parents?

People looking for a non-romantic partner with whom to raise a child have been taking their search online. Websites geared towards matching people in co-parenting arrangements attract people looking for parenting partners as well as those who would like to get to know their sperm donor better than they could at a sperm bank. Many users of sites like Modafamily.com and Family By Design say

-  Facebook
-  Twitter
-  Podcasts
-  RSS

depth discussions of city news, politics, science, entertainment, the arts, and more.

 [View Archived Episodes](#)

## FROM THE BLOG: LARRY MANTLE

Rooting for the 49ers taps into California's rivalries

JANUARY 21



What the "Up" series of documentaries tells us about stages of life

JANUARY 18

The "amazing" list of banished words is "literally" "awesome"

JANUARY 02

It was a remarkable show of listener generosity and commitment

that searching for a non-romantic co-parent gave them the opportunity to more thoroughly consider the process of child rearing and to strategize with their partner, something that traditional couples may do less frequently.

But what are the complications of finding a non-romantic co-parent online? The legal implications vary state by state. In co-parenting situations without legal documentation, potential custody battles could be hard to negotiate.

As ideas of what constitutes a “traditional” family change and expand to include divorced couples, same-sex partners, and step-parents, are non-romantic parenting matches another sign of the times? Is it a given that parents should be romantically involved? What are the legal pitfalls of entering into a co-parenting arrangement?

### Guests:

**Darren Spedale**, founder of FamilybyDesign.com

**Jennifer Lahl**, president of the Center for Bioethics and Culture in the Bay Area. Jennifer is a former pediatric nurse (25 years), and she’s of the opinion that “co-parenting” is a form of experimenting on children to satisfy our own personal needs. She’s also in production on a documentary film about surrogacy.

NOVEMBER 14

Are we there yet?

NOVEMBER 05

MORE FROM LARRY MANTLE

Contribute Now  
Win a new 2013  
Toyota Avalon

 Pledge Now



### GET KPCC IN YOUR INBOX

Breaking

Daily Connect

News

Breaking news alerts sent to your inbox

 Email address

Subscribe

MORE NEWSLETTERS »



on myth

- Breaking: Christopher Dorner reportedly engaged in shootout with police in Big Bear

31   
Comments

[Add your comments](#)

31 comments



Leave a message...

Discussion ▾



**Lesley** · 12 days ago

There is already a sort of fetishizing of parenthood in people coming together with absolutely no prior history

5 ^ | ▾ · Reply · Share >



**Peter from Whittier** → Lesley · 12 days ago

"Two people coming together with absolutely no history. I think that both adults coming together for the first time, hey, they must be Pedo's, I guess.

1 ^ | ▾ · Reply · Share >



**anaheimchris** · 12 days ago

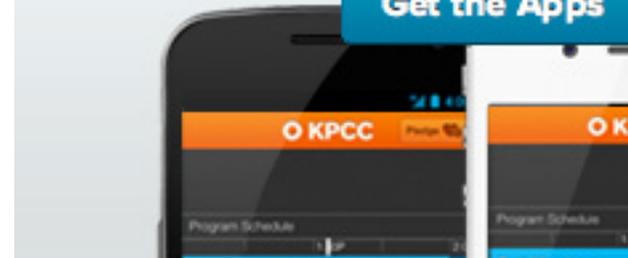
I am in favor of any family structure in which the desire to be wonderful parents.

5 ^ | ▾ · Reply · Share >

Become a KPCC Sponsor

**KPCC MOBILE APPS**

Get the Apps



Become a KPCC Sponsor



**Noelle** · 12 days ago

What happens when the "co-parents" each acquire o  
through the course of the child's life?

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Guest** → Noelle · 12 days ago

I suppose it is no different than how divorced p

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Mark in Irvine** · 12 days ago

I grew-up in a working-class (that's being kind) area  
that had two parents, but they were definitely non-ro  
talk to each other much. Dis-function was typically i  
arrangements aren't necessarily "modern."

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Peter from Whittier** → Mark in Irvine · 12 days ago

Bro, you're equating non-romance with "dis-ft

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Mark in Irvine** → Peter from Whittier · 12 days ag

"Bro"? Only a surfer from the 80s or a c  
designer jeans uses the term "bro."

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Peter from Whittier** → Mark in Irvine · 11

— Them, and me; I intrinsically enjoy from the question you neglected to people who reduce themselves to f

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest → Mark in Irvine · 12 days ago

Agreed, I wouldn't call this modern at all. Cycl happened throughout history.

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Guest · 12 days ago

Sounds like we are treating children more like "pets" forever....

6 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



Hank · 12 days ago

I have had a couple of same sex relationships close t think this is true for all of us. I think I can tell when t the possibility that we may not work as a couple, allt speak. I have enough common sense to decide when provide a loving, supportive and financially solid ho from this most joyous ability to share and love. No c background, is young and immature that they are se

I really like the prior comment also, that this is only that the years of love and caring we can provide chil unplanned pregnancy. Selfish is thinking you have tl

has nothing to do with the quality of care and love of

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Allen · 12 days ago

People do this all the time, it's called hooking up. Th  
of time via contract to not be deadbeats.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Astrogoth · 12 days ago

There is something to be said for the check and bala  
handle any relationship.

5 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share ›



Alex · 12 days ago

I've had 2 successive long term relationships with m  
completely viable option for someone like me. All th  
partner to co-parent with. I wouldn't approach this i  
because, I can't find a like minded romantic partner!

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Bat · 12 days ago

But what would be the effect of two disinterested pai  
to know this "co-parent," how are they really differe  
for a platonic partner, why not invest the interest in

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Joe in Pasadena** · 12 days ago

"Friendship" between co-parents isn't nearly as important as a child just isn't enough.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

---



**Denise** · 12 days ago

This sounds like the plot to a romantic comedy.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

---



**Guest** → Denise · 12 days ago

It is ;) Friends with Kids

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

---



**guest** · 12 days ago

If an individual can be a single parent, why not find a relationship that would be important though.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

---



**M.D.** · 12 days ago

Larry, at the beginning of this piece, co-parenting so much more of a discussion that the idea of co-parenting now makes it seem like a

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

---



**ct** · 12 days ago

I think it boils down to what works for each individual. It's about the environment for kids whether in a committed romantic relationship or with people who can and do provide a nurturing, excep

people who are hesitant to accept this should maybe  
wouldn't work for anyone.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

---



Neil · 12 days ago

I was intrigued by your last caller's story about the g  
their two children together.

That is the plot of the new film Gayby which I saw on  
Independent Spirit Award for its fantastic screenpla

This concept of nontraditional family has definitely

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

---



Erin · 12 days ago

People in romantic relationships get super messy an  
about or to kids. Just because you have a boyfriend  
this are talking about it beforehand, and i'd guess me  
been talking to a gay friend for years about this idea  
divorced and shuttling them back and forth. come o

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

---



Robert · 12 days ago

Would there be any alimony or child support? I rem  
for child support.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

---





Linda Loren · 12 days ago

If the "couple" split up, child support would at

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



April · 12 days ago

I am very sympathetic to those who are single and w  
"village" from among your family and close friends,  
strangers together to do one of the hardest, lifelong  
ones who will suffer.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



Astrogoth · 12 days ago

Seems to me this service would be much better suite  
Judging by your guest's accent that may be the prim  
just say that?

0 ^ | 1 v · Reply · Share >



Anna · 12 days ago

As demonstrated by arranged marriages around the  
families. Instead, shared values, religious/cultural n  
count. I would absolutely choose this route!

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



Brandon · 12 days ago

I'm just not cut out to be in a romantic relationship &  
miserable with the person you're with. However I ha  
help a child live a beautiful life in this world. I think!

ready to put your focus on the child's welfare is a gre

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

---



**Luna Loren** · 12 days ago

Lahl's example of a father suing the mother as a surr covers everything before the pregnancy/adoption.

0 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

---

## DISQUS

---

 Comment feed

---

 Subscribe via email

---







Support the voices you trust!

 Pledge Now

## SECTIONS

**NEWS**

LOCAL

MONEY

STATE

CRIME &

U.S./WORLD

SAFETY

## PROGRAMS

TAKE TWO

AIRTALK

OFF-RAMP

PROGRAMS A-Z

## STAY CONNECTED



KPCC ACCOUNTS: LOG IN

REGISTER

## ABOUT

ABOUT KPCC

STAFF

CONTACT US

HELP / FAQ

POLITICS

EDUCATION

SCIENCE

HEALTH

ARCHIVE

ARTS & LIFE

CULTURE

ARTS

FILM

MUSIC

BOOKS

FOOD

 VIDEO

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

PROGRAM ARCHIVE

EVENTS

THE CRAWFORD FAMILY

FORUM

SPONSORED EVENTS

NEWSLETTERS

RSS

PODCASTS



GET THE KPCC  
MOBILE APPS

FEEDBACK

CAREERS @ KPCC

89.3 KPCC

Southern California Public Radio

474 S. Raymond Ave.

Pasadena, CA 91105



**Call in: 866-893-5722**

OUR

PARTNERS



[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Feedback](#)

© 2013 Southern California Public  
Radio