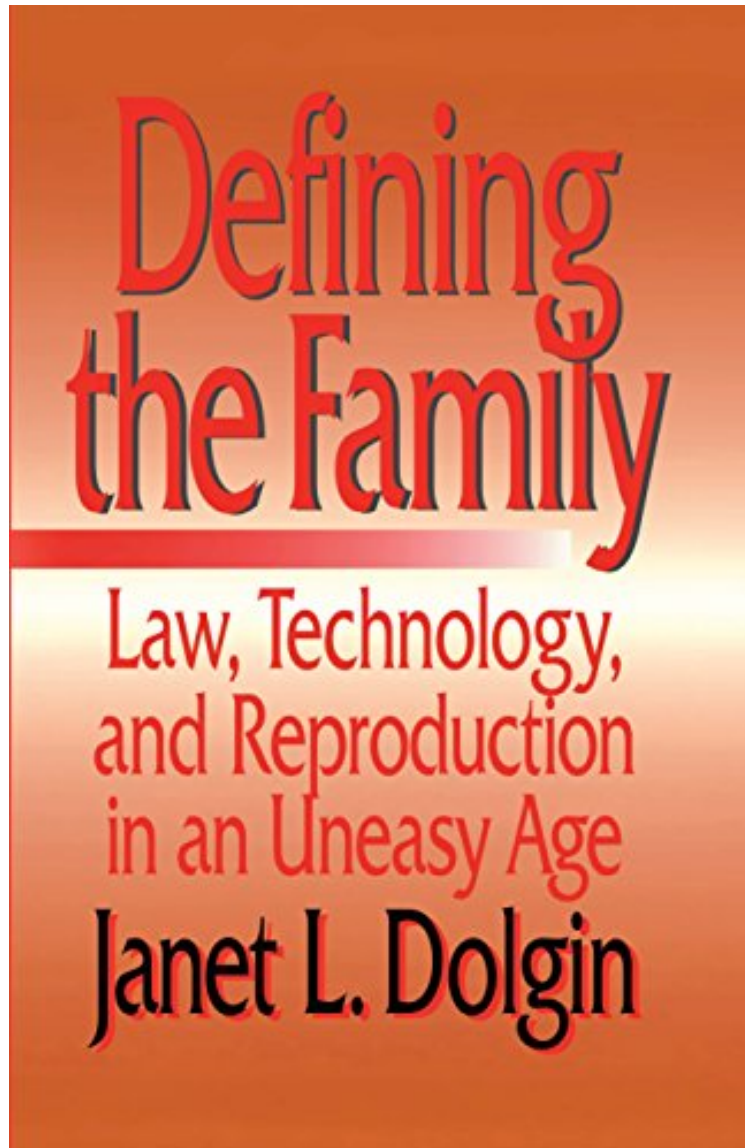


[Free pdf] Defining the Family: Law, Technology, and Reproduction in An Uneasy Age

Defining the Family: Law, Technology, and Reproduction in An Uneasy Age

Janet L. Dolgin

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"Janet Dolgin provides an overview of clashing conceptions of family as revealed in the struggle of courts to deal with the impact of various forms of reproductive technology."-Hypathia"Carefully researched . . . In Professor Dolgin's view, the family carried forward the feudal structure of hierarchy, mutual loyalty and lack of individual autonomy into the modern era until, like other institutions, it came under stress from the overriding reality of modern life: marketplace economics."-New York Law Journal"Dolgin argues that [surrogacy and reproductive technologies] have only accelerated a clash in visions of the family that have uneasily coexisted for more than a century. -Choice"The best book for lawyers to read on the problems of assisted reproduction."-JurimetricsFrom the Back CoverToday, the family has come to be defined by individuality and choice. Once simple questions have taken on a dizzying complexity: Who are the "real" parents of a child? What are the relationships and responsibilities between a child, the woman who carried it to term, and the egg donor? Between the child and the sperm donor? Between viable sperm and the wife of a dead donor? The courts and the law have been wildly inconsistent and indecisive when grappling with these questions. Should these cases be decided in light of laws governing contracts and property? Or is it more appropriate to act in the best interests of the child, even if that "child" is unborn, or even unconceived? No longer merely settling disputes between family members, the law is now seeing its own role expand, to the point where it is asked to regulate situations unprecedented in human history. Defining the Family: Law, Technology, and Reproduction in an Uneasy Age provides a sweeping portrait of the family in American law from the nineteenth century to the present. Janet Dolgin charts the response of the law to modern reproductive technology as it both transforms our image of the family and is itself transformed by the tide of social forces.About the AuthorJanet L. Dolgin is the Maurice A. Deane Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law at Hofstra University School of Law in New York.