

# Russian Court Pronounces Woman a 'Man in Same-Sex Marriage' in Custody Saga

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Yulia Savinovskikh **Vova Zhabrikov** / URA.RU / TASS

A court in Yekaterinburg has justified the removal of a mother's adopted children by declaring her a "man in a same-sex marriage."

Social workers [removed](#) Yulia Savinovskikh's two foster sons last year on suspicion that she had planned a sex change operation after undergoing breast reduction surgery. A local district court sided with social workers there and declined to return the two adopted sons to Savinovskikh in Yekaterinburg last week.

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"Savinovskikh's self-identification as a male — taking into account her marriage with a man, the desire to adopt a social role peculiar to a male — in essence contradicts the principles

of our country's family law, the traditions and mentality of our society," reads an excerpt of the court's motivation [published](#) by Savinovskikh's lawyer.

Alexei Bushmakov, the woman's lawyer, said the courts used the same-sex marriage argument after claiming that Savinovskikh had "some sort of disease that prevents her from being a guardian."

"In other words, the judge has found that Savinovskikh is in a same-sex marriage with her husband, and children should not be brought up in a same-sex family," Bushmakov [told](#) the Adivgazeta.ru legal publication.

"If anyone else still has doubts, they can leave the country," Bushmakov [wrote](#) on Facebook on Monday.

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