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Nota di contenuto	Cover Page; Title Page; Copyright Page; Contents; About the Editor; About the Author; Preface; Part I General Principles; Chapter 1 The Principles of American Family Law; A. Federalism; B. Ex Ante vs. Ex Post Decision Making; C. Discretionary vs. Nondiscretionary Decisions; D. Contract vs. Status; E. Bright-Line Rules vs. Functional Standards; F. The Proper Level of Deference for Traditional or Conventional Views and Practices; G. Family Privacy; H. The Problem of Inadequate Data; I. Using or Ignoring Existing Categories; J. The Nature and Role of "Family"; K. Conclusion Suggested Further ReadingPart II Marriage; Chapter 2 Marriage Eligibility, Marital Rules; A. The History: Traditional, Gendered, Hierarchical Marriage; B. Marital Property; C. The Right to Marry; D. Common Law Marriage; E. Same-Sex Marriage; F. Heartbalm Actions; G. Formalities; H. Interjurisdictional Recognition; Suggested Further Reading; Chapter 3 Alternatives to Marriage; A. Long-Term Cohabitation; B. Marriage-like Status; Suggested Further Reading; Part III Parenthood; Chapter 4 Parental Authority; A. Nonmarital Children; B. Presumptions of Paternity; C. Step-Parents D. Equitable ParentsE. Co-Parenting Agreements; F. Sharp Distinctions and the Rule of Two; Suggested Further Reading; Chapter 5 Adoption; A. History and General Rules; B. Nonmarital Fathers; C. Open Adoption and Open Records; D. Step-Parent and Second-Parent Adoption; E. Race and Religion; F. Indian Child Welfare Act; G. Sexual Orientation;

Suggested Further Reading; Chapter 6 New Reproductive Technologies; A. Egg and Sperm Donation; B. Surrogacy; C. Division of Embryos; D. Posthumous Reproduction; Suggested Further Reading; Chapter 7 Abuse and Neglect; A. Standards for Abuse and Neglect B. Cultural and Religious Defenses C. Procedural Protections; D. Foster Care; Suggested Further Reading; Chapter 8 Children's Rights; A. Children's Rights; B. Children's Duties; Suggested Further Reading; Part IV Divorce; Chapter 9 Divorce; A. History of Divorce Grounds; B. No Fault and Beyond; C. Jurisdiction; Suggested Further Reading; Chapter 10 Agreements; A. Premarital Agreements; 1. History; 2. Religious Agreements; B. Marital Agreements; C. Separation Agreements; Suggested Further Reading; Chapter 11 Property Division; A. Introduction; B. Characterization and Payment C. Doctrinal Rules and Views of Marriage D. General Principles of Property Division; E. Conflict of Laws; F. Short-Duration Marriages; G. High-Income and High-Wealth Divorces; H. Tax and Bankruptcy; Suggested Further Reading; Chapter 12 Alimony; A. History and General Principles; B. Special Cases; C. Remarriage or Cohabitation of the Recipient; D. Modification; E. Alimony Guidelines; F. Other Limits and Reforms; Suggested Further Reading; Chapter 13 Custody, Modification, Relocation, Visitation; A. Custody: History and General Principles; 1. Best Interests of the Child 2. Race, Gender, Religion

## Sommario/riassunto

A book about family law is necessarily a book both about family life and the role law can and should take in regulating family life. Individually and together, these are vast topics. American family law is ever-changing and affects every facet of our lives. The Oxford Introductions to U.S. Law: Family Law provides a critical introduction to the enduring topics in the field, including not only an overview of the basic rules, but also the history and principles underlying them. In this short and accessible volume, Brian Bix gives the necessary legal background for understanding current media cov