

# Recommendations for Multi-skintoned Emoji Sequences for Unicode 14.0

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**Version:** 5

## I. Background

Last year, the ESC recommended Unicode move forward with their first multi-skintoned emojis: 71 variants of “couple holding hands”. This leaves a number of emojis that include two or more people with missing “skintone” variants.

Skin tone modifiers have many exceptions and implementation details, and many aspects of this have been discussed in past documents. This document is to note **the Emoji Sub-Committee’s recommendation to add 7,230 sequences to Emoji 14.0 to support multi-skintone multi-person groupings**. This follows priorities set out in [L2/19-101](#) and reflects vendors’ intention to support these emoji designs from 2021 onward.

## II. Proposal Overview

These additional sequence are recommended for General Interchange (RGI) using the standard format of person + person format with skintone modifiers.



The Emoji Subcommittee is recommending 7,230 new RGI sequences be added to Emoji 14.0 to fill these gaps and create a meaningful user experience. *Note that the actual number of images can be smaller if the vendor chooses to not distinguish by position, thus reducing the total number of permutations to 4,230 combinations.*

This follows priorities set out in [L2/19-101](#), as well as details of vendors intention to

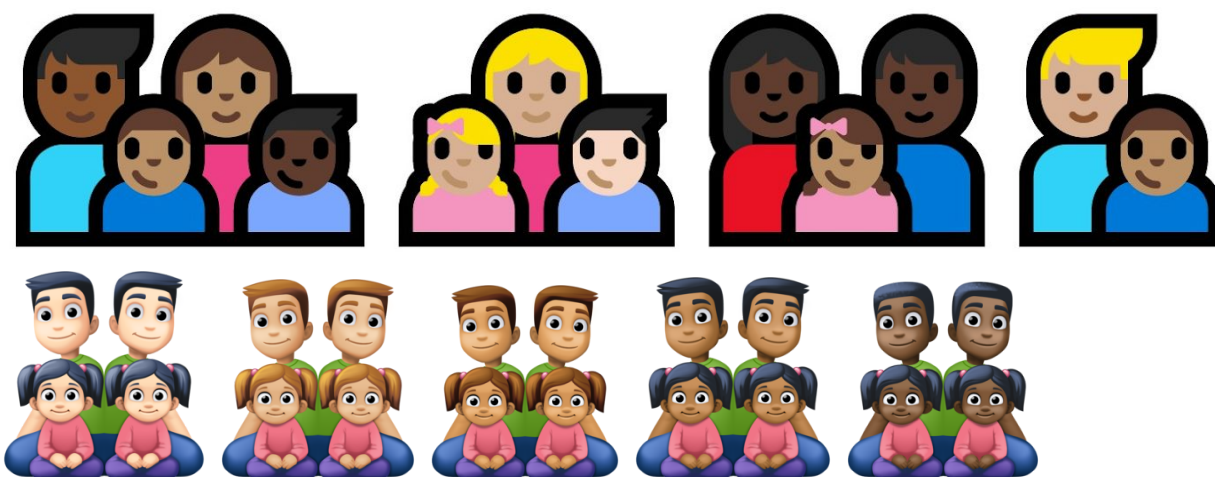
display skintone inclusive emoji designs from 2019 onward.

Because this number of emoji sequences is quite large, the proposal is to add 2 data files: one for testing and one for the sequences. That makes generation and comparison much easier. Five non-ZWJ sequences will be added to the existing emoji-sequences.txt data file. The remaining 7,225 ZWJ sequences are to be added to : emoji-test-family.txt and emoji-zwj-sequences-family.txt

### III. Selection factors – Inclusion

#### A. Compatibility

At least one major platform and one android app support non-rgi variations of the family emojis.



Above: Shared skin tone support is not RGI but is supported by Microsoft and Facebook.

#### B. Expected use

##### 1. Frequency

Black families were among the most requested emoji in 2019, according to Emojipedia: <https://blog.emojipedia.org/top-emoji-requests-2019/>

| Search term  | Google Search  | Bing Search | Google Image Search | Google Trends: Web | Google Trends: Image |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| black-family | 10,030,000,000 | 7,050,000   | 1,740,000,000       | See below          | See below            |
| interracial  | 543,000,000    | 181,000,000 | 537,000,000         | See below          | See below            |

| Search term | Google Search | Bing Search | Google Image Search |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|
|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|

|              |   |   |  |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| black-family | <p>black-family</p> <p>All Images</p> <p>About 10,030,000,000 res</p> | <p>black-family</p> <p>All Images</p> <p>7,050,000 Results</p>  | <p>black-family</p> <p>All Images News</p> <p>About 1,740,000,000 results (0.44 se</p> |
| interracial  | <p>interracial</p> <p>All Videos</p> <p>About 543,000,000 results</p> | <p>interracial</p> <p>All Images</p> <p>181,000,000 Results</p> | <p>interracial</p> <p>All Videos News</p> <p>About 537,000,000 results (0.28 seco</p>  |

● elephant Search term
⋮
● black-family Search term
+ Add comparison

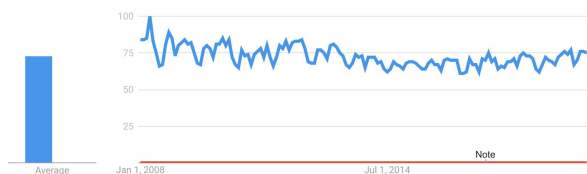
● elephant Search term
⋮
● black-family Search term
+ Add comparison

Worldwide 2008 - present All categories Image Search

Worldwide 2004 - present All categories Web Search

Interest over time ⌵ ⌵ ⌵

Interest over time ⌵ ⌵ ⌵



● elephant Search term
⋮
● interracial Search term
+ Add comparison

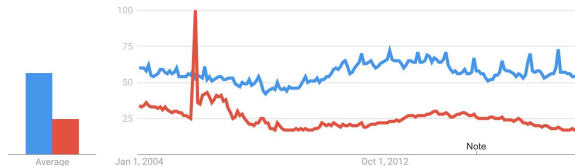
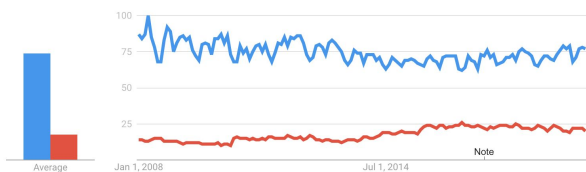
● elephant Search term
⋮
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Worldwide 2008 - present All categories Image Search

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Interest over time ⌵ ⌵ ⌵

Interest over time ⌵ ⌵ ⌵



Given the support of multi-person multi-skintoned emoji (Couples Holding Hands), the exclusionary impact of not encoding multi-skinned family groupings is alienating and inexcusable in the year of 2019

**2. Multiple usages**

Can represent the general concept of love and affection.

**3. Use in sequences**

N/a this is a ZWJ sequence.

**4. Breaking new ground**

N/a

**C. Image distinctiveness**



Above: Magazine covers and children books depicting multi-skintoned families

A multi-skintoned FAMILY 🌈👨‍👩‍👧 is iconic and symbolic in a manner that is distinct from the existing RGI FAMILY. Unlike the existing emoji which offer no skintone variation, supporting multi-skintones elevates these icons to represent the celebration of love and family — it’s just that simple. Love is love no matter if it’s between two men, two women, or anyone of any gender or of any race.

While the existing encoding for family is sufficient in conveying the “idea of a family”, a visualization of a family where everyone doesn’t all look the same says something entirely new and insufficiently represented in emoji form. Families, whether formed by birth or adoption or foster care or a mix of all three, don’t always look the same.

**D. Completeness**

Short of people wrestling and people with bunny ears this would complete RGI support of existing multi-person emojis to have multi-skintone support.

**IV. Selection factors — Exclusion**

**F. Overly specific**

No, this is a fairly generic and iconic.

**G. Open-ended**

No, this is not part of a set of similar items.

**H. Already representable**

No.

**I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities**

Not applicable. There are no logos, brands, signage or otherwise among the proposed characters.

**J. Transient**

Not applicable.

**K. Faulty comparison**

Justification for encoding the proposed emoji does not depend on analogy with other emoji that were encoded only for compatibility reasons.



**L. Exact Images**

An exact image is not required.

## V. Chart


Many multi-person ZWJ Sequences that are Recommended for General Interchange (RGI) use a standard format of WOMAN (or MAN) + WOMAN (or MAN). These scale simply by adding skintone modifiers to each sequence create a skintone variant options. The Emoji Subcommittee recommends the addition of the following 26 Family Sequences + associated skin tones.

Note: that the skin-tone modifiers are omitted from the charts. The full number of images is 7,230 variants/permutations. If users cannot control the order of skintone in repeated genders, there are 4,230 combinations.






| Number   | Code  | Emoji   | CLDR Short Name         | Number of Variants | Variants w/out order |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | <a href="#">U+1F46A</a>   |  | family                  | 5                  | n/a                  |
| This is a special case as it is an atomic character and the composition varies across genders. Five non-ZWJ sequences will be added to the existing emoji-sequences.txt data file. |   |   |                         |                    |                      |
| 2  | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F466</a> |  | family: man, woman, boy | 125                | 125                  |

|   |   |   |                               |     |     |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------|-----|-----|
|   |   |   |                               |     |     |
| 3   | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F467</a>                                   |    | family: man, woman, girl      | 125 | 125 |
|   |   |   |                               |     |     |
| 4   | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F467 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F466</a> |    | family: man, woman, girl, boy | 625 | 625 |
|  |   |   |                               |     |     |
| 5   | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F466 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F466</a> |  | family: man, woman, boy, boy  | 625 | 375 |




|   |   |   |                                |     |     |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 6 | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F467 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F467</a> |  | family: man, woman, girl, girl | 625 | 375 |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|-----|-----|










|  |  |   |                             |     |     |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------|-----|-----|
| 7  | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F468 U+200D U+1F466</a>                |    | family: man, man, boy       | 125 | 75  |
|    |  |   |                             |     |     |
| 8  | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F468 U+200D U+1F467</a>                |    | family: man, man, girl      | 125 | 75  |
|    |  |   |                             |     |     |
| 9  | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F468 U+200D U+1F467 U+200D U+1F466</a> |    | family: man, man, girl, boy | 625 | 375 |
|  |  |   |                             |     |     |
| 10   | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F468 U+200D U+1F466 U+200D U+1F466</a> |  | family: man, man, boy, boy  | 625 | 225 |

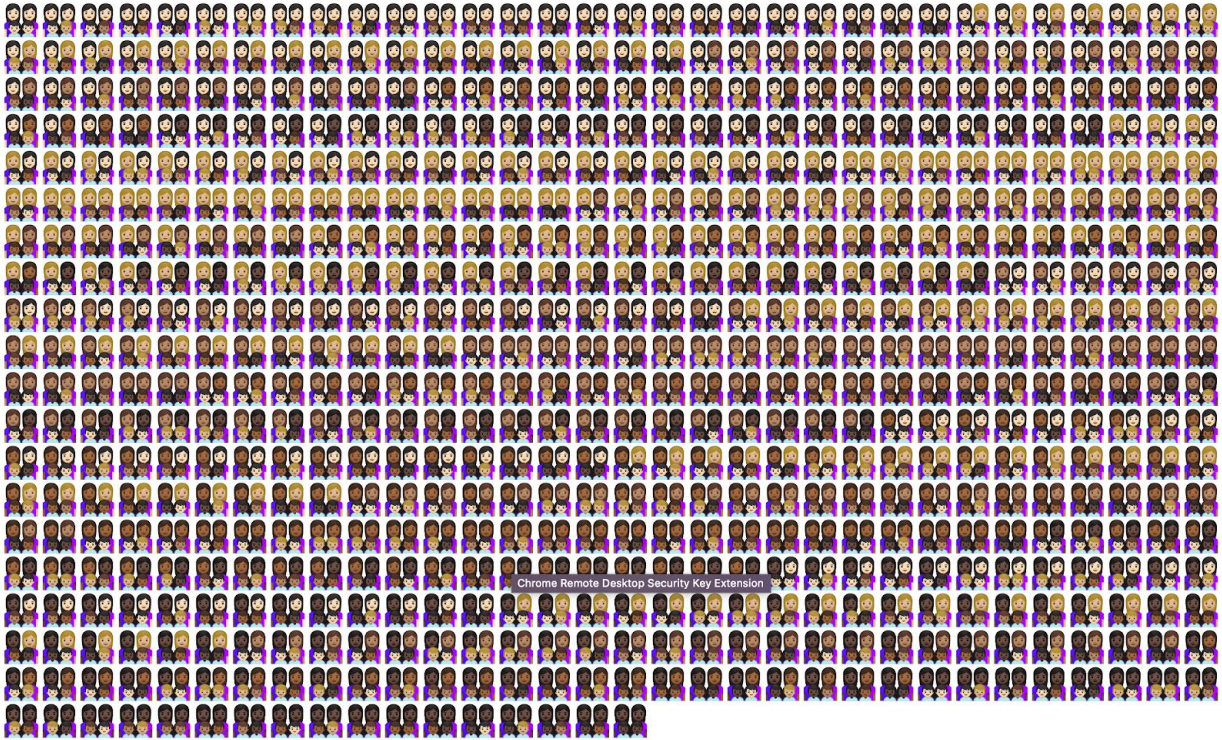





|    |  |   |                              |     |     |
|----|--|---|------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 11 | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F468 U+200D U+1F467 U+200D U+1F467</a> |  | family: man, man, girl, girl | 625 | 225 |
|----|--|---|------------------------------|-----|-----|




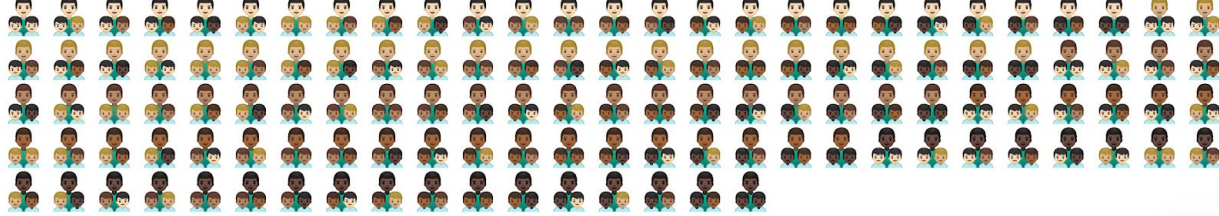















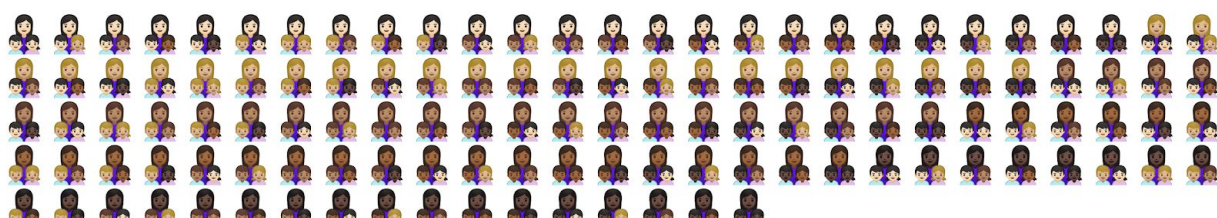


|  |   |   |                                    |     |     |
|--|---|---|------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 12   | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F466</a>                                   |    | family: woman, woman, boy          | 125 | 75  |
|    |   |   |                                    |     |     |
| 13   | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F467</a>                                   |    | family: woman, woman, girl         | 125 | 75  |
|    |   |   |                                    |     |     |
| 14   | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F467 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F466</a> |    | family: woman, woman, girl,<br>boy | 625 | 375 |
|  |   |   |                                    |     |     |
| 15   | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F466 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F466</a> |  | family: woman, woman, boy,<br>boy  | 625 | 225 |



|    |   |   |                                     |     |     |
|----|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 16 | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F467 U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F467</a> |  | family: woman, woman, girl,<br>girl | 625 | 225 |
|----|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|




|  |   |   |                         |     |     |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| 17   | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F466</a>                |    | family: man, boy        | 25  | 25  |
|    |   |   |                         |     |     |
| 18   | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F466 U+200D U+1F466</a> |    | family: man, boy, boy   | 125 | 75  |
|    |   |   |                         |     |     |
| 19   | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F467</a>                |    | family: man, girl       | 25  | 25  |
|  |   |   |                         |     |     |
| 20   | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F467 U+200D U+1F466</a> |  | family: man, girl, boy  | 125 | 125 |
|  |   |   |                         |     |     |
| 21   | <a href="#">U+1F468 U+200D U+1F467 U+200D U+1F467</a> |  | family: man, girl, girl | 125 | 75  |
|  |   |   |                         |     |     |

|  |   |   |                           |     |     |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|-----|-----|
| 22   | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D U+1F466</a>                |    | family: woman, boy        | 25  | 25  |
|    |   |   |                           |     |     |
| 23   | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D U+1F466 U+200D U+1F466</a> |    | family: woman, boy, boy   | 125 | 75  |
|    |   |   |                           |     |     |
| 24   | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D U+1F467</a>                |    | family: woman, girl       | 25  | 25  |
|  |   |   |                           |     |     |
| 25   | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D U+1F467 U+200D U+1F466</a> |  | family: woman, girl, boy  | 125 | 125 |
|  |   |   |                           |     |     |
| 26   | <a href="#">U+1F469 U+200D U+1F467 U+200D U+1F467</a> |  | family: woman, girl, girl | 125 | 75  |
|  |   |   |                           |     |     |



## VI. Proposed Sequences

List of new sequences proposed for addition in the Emoji 14.0 data files. This proposal encompasses a total of 7,230 new sequences. In lieu of a complete chart, we have compiled a sample list to represent the 25 sequences to accommodate a two person family. The actual data files can be found in a separate document.

|  |   |                          |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| <a href="#">U+1F469</a><br><a href="#">U+200D</a><br><a href="#">U+1F466</a> |  | family:<br>woman,<br>boy |
|--|---|--------------------------|

1F469 1F3FB 200D 1F466 1F3FB; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman: Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FB 200D 1F466 1F3FC; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman: Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FB 200D 1F466 1F3FD; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman: Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FB 200D 1F466 1F3FE; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman: Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Dark Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FB 200D 1F466 1F3FF; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman: Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Dark Skin Tone);

1F469 1F3FC 200D 1F466 1F3FB; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FC 200D 1F466 1F3FC; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FC 200D 1F466 1F3FD; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FC 200D 1F466 1F3FE; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Dark Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FC 200D 1F466 1F3FF; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Light Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Dark Skin Tone);

1F469 1F3FD 200D 1F466 1F3FB; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FD 200D 1F466 1F3FC; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FD 200D 1F466 1F3FD; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FD 200D 1F466 1F3FE; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Dark Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FD 200D 1F466 1F3FF; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Dark Skin Tone);

1F469 1F3FE 200D 1F466 1F3FB; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FE 200D 1F466 1F3FC; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FE 200D 1F466 1F3FD; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FE 200D 1F466 1F3FE; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Dark Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FE 200D 1F466 1F3FF; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Med-Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Dark Skin Tone);

1F469 1F3FF 200D 1F466 1F3FB; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FF 200D 1F466 1F3FC; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Light Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FF 200D 1F466 1F3FD; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FF 200D 1F466 1F3FE; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Med-Dark Skin Tone);  
1F469 1F3FF 200D 1F466 1F3FF; Emoji\_ZWJ\_Sequence; family: (👩 Woman:Dark Skin Tone, 👦 Boy: Dark Skin Tone)

## VII. Vendor Implementation

Since the addition of skintone related ZWJ Sequences in Emoji 1.0, the encoding of skintone has matured every year. However, the implementation seems random to the average person when some people based emojis support skintone and others do not. Many emoji additions list one skintone option as Recommended for General Interchange (RGI), while others six.

While Microsoft has supported variants for multi-skintoned families for over four years, additional advancements in font technology will allow other vendors to intake the surplus of expanding variants of existing multi-person emojis to be more diverse.

Implementation will follow existing patterns for multi-person, multi-skintoned emojis which easily scale with the addition of these new couple emojis.

Additionally, Facebook's [messaging app](#) has also gone ahead and implemented non-RGI emojis to support a subset of skintone modifiers for some family emojis.

Google has expressed desire to support all 7,000+ new emojis and to be compliant with Unicode procedure would want them to be fully aligned to Unicode guidelines.

### VII. Reference Documents

- <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2018/18228-inter-skintone-emoji.pdf>
- <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2019/19101-esc-rgi-priorities.pdf>
- <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2019/19265-handshake.pdf>
- <https://www.unicode.org/emoji/charts/full-emoji-list.html#family>
- <http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2018/18223r-uts51-skin-tone-gender.pdf>

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