

Notice regarding same sex marriage and domestic partnerships:

On June 7, new state law made changes that may affect you if you are currently registered in a Washington State Domestic Partnership. With the approval of Referendum 74 the new law will take effect on December 6, 2012. This notice is a summary of those changes.

Key points in the new law:

- The definition of marriage is changed to a civil contract between two persons, gender neutral. The definition of spouse is also now gender neutral.
- No religious official is required to perform, recognize, or provide a place for a same-sex marriage. They are also exempt from civil action if they refuse to conduct such marriage.
- No state agency or local government may discriminate against a religious organization that opposes same sex marriage.
- Marriage is not allowed if one person has another spouse or partner in a state registered domestic partnership.
- A domestic partnership formed in another state does not prohibit a couple from obtaining a marriage license in Washington.
- State registered domestic partnerships will continue to be recognized when both partners are at least 18 years old and at least one partner is 62 years old, regardless of sexual orientation.
- State registered domestic partnerships will be dissolved as of the date of marriage.
- As of June 30, 2014, state registered domestic partnerships, where neither party is 62 years old, will be converted to marriage.
- If, as of June 30, 2014, a state registered domestic partnership is in the process of dissolution, annulment, or legal separation, it will not be converted into marriage.
- If a couple from another state is in a valid legal union, other than marriage, they will be having the same rights and responsibilities as married spouses, while in Washington.
- If a couple from another state is in a valid legal union, and become permanent residents of Washington, they will have one year to enter into marriage to retain those rights and responsibilities.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes might affect you, please email us at corps@sos.wa.gov or call 360-725-0377.

Washington Secretary of State, Corporations and Charities Division