

Relationship Recognition in the U.S.

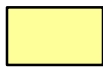


State issues marriage licenses to same-sex couples (Massachusetts only, 2004)



Statewide law providing the equivalent of state-level spousal rights to same-sex couples within the state (5 states*)

- Vermont (civil unions, 2001)
- Connecticut (civil unions, 2005)
- California (domestic partnerships, 2006**)
- New Hampshire (civil unions, effective January 2008)
- New Jersey (civil unions, 2007)
- Oregon (domestic partnerships, effective January 2008)



Statewide law providing some statewide spousal rights to same-sex couples within the state (3 states and Washington, DC)

- Hawaii (reciprocal beneficiaries, 1997)
- Maine (domestic partnerships, 2004)
- Washington State (domestic partnerships, 2007)
- District of Columbia (domestic partnerships, 2002***)

** California domestic partnership law has been expanded several times, most recently in 2006.

*** The District of Columbia passed a domestic partnership law in 1992 that did not become effective until 2002, because Congress prohibited implementation of the law.