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## Marriage and Relationship Recognition

Note: As a result of the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in [Obergefell v. Hodges](#), same-sex couples throughout the United States are now permitted to marry. Those marriages are recognized by the federal government and all other states and territories. Some states permitted couples to marry prior to that decision as a result of legislation, state supreme court rulings, or lower federal court rulings that were not appealed. Those are noted below.

Current as of February 8, 2017

### Alabama

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

### Alaska

- [Hamby v. Walker](#) (U.S. District Court, District of Alaska, 2014).

### Arizona

- [Connolly v. Jeanes](#) and [Majors v. Horne](#) (U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, 2014).

### Arkansas

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

### California

- Marriage: [Hollingsworth v. Perry](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2013).
- Comprehensive Domestic Partnerships: [A.B. 205](#) (2003; effective 2005).

### Colorado

- Marriage: [Kitchen v. Herbert](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014).
- Civil Unions: [S.B. 13-011](#) (2013).

### Connecticut

- [Kerrigan v. State of Connecticut Department of Public Health](#) (Connecticut Supreme Court, 2008).

### Delaware

- [H.B. 75](#) (2013).

### District of Columbia

- Marriage: [18-482](#) (2009; effective 2010).



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- Comprehensive Domestic Partnerships: [A17-0403](#) (2008).

#### Florida

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Georgia

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Hawaii

- Marriage: [S.B. 1 H.D. 1](#) (2013).
- Civil Unions: [S.B. 232](#) (2011, effective 2012).

#### Idaho

- [Latta v. Otter](#) (U.S. District Court, District of Idaho, 2014).

#### Illinois

- Marriage: [S.B. 0010](#) (2013; effective 2014).
- Civil Union: [Public Act 96-1513](#) (2011).

#### Indiana

- [Baskin v. Bogan](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014).

#### Iowa

- [Varnum v. Brien](#) (Supreme Court of Iowa, 2009).

#### Kansas

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Kentucky

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Louisiana

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Maine

- [Public Question: An Act to Allow Marriage Licenses for Same-Sex Couples and Protect Religious Freedom](#) (2012).



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#### Maryland

- [Referendum by Petition: Civil Marriage Protection Act](#) (2012; effective 2013).

#### Massachusetts

- [Goodridge v. Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#) (2003; effective 2004).

#### Michigan

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Minnesota

- [HF 1054](#) (2013).

#### Mississippi

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Missouri

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Montana

- [Rolando v. Fox](#) (U.S. District Court, District of Montana, 2014).

#### Nebraska

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Nevada

- Marriage: [Sevcik v. Sandoval](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014).
- Comprehensive Domestic Partnerships: [Nevada Domestic Partnerships](#) (2009).

#### New Hampshire

- [H.B. 436](#) (2009; effective 2010).

#### New Jersey

- Marriage: *Garden State Equality v. Dow* (New Jersey Superior Court, 2013).
- Civil Unions: [P.L. 2006, Chapter 103, The Civil Union Act](#) (2006; effective 2007).

#### New Mexico

- [Griego v. Oliver](#) (Supreme Court of New Mexico 2013).

#### New York

- [A.B. A8354](#) (2011).

#### North Carolina

- [General Synod of the United Church of Christ v. Resinger](#) (United States District Court, Western District of North Carolina, 2014).



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#### North Dakota

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Ohio

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Oklahoma

- [Bishop v. United States](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014).

#### Oregon

- Marriage: [Geiger v. Kitzhaber](#) (U.S. District Court, District of Oregon, 2014).
- Comprehensive Domestic Partnerships: [Oregon Family Fairness Act, Public Law Number 99](#) (2007).

#### Pennsylvania

- [Whitewood v. Wolf](#) (U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania, 2014).

#### Rhode Island

- [Public Law 2013-005](#) (2013).

#### South Carolina

- [Condon v. Haley](#) (U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina, 2014).

#### South Dakota

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Tennessee

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Texas

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015).

#### Utah

- Marriage: [Kitchen v. Herbert](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014).

#### Vermont

- Marriage: [S.115](#) (2009)

#### Virginia

- [Bostic v. Schaefer](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014).



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#### Washington

- [Referendum Measure No. 74](#) (2012).

#### West Virginia

- [Bostic v. Schaefer](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014).

#### Wisconsin

- [Wolf v. Walker](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014).

#### Wyoming

- [Guzzo v. Mead](#) (U.S. District Court, District of Wyoming, 2014).

### U.S. Territories

#### American Samoa

- American Samoan marriage statutes do not state that only different-sex couples can marry, but when stating the required age for marriage, [statutes refer to “the male” and “the female.”](#) Following the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the attorney general in American Samoa stated that the ruling did not apply. Others have argued that because the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that marriage was a “fundamental” right, the ruling applies to unincorporated territories. In 2016, when a new district court judge was approved by the American Samoan Senate, he stated that he would not permit same-sex couples to marry until the American Samoan marriage statute had been explicitly changed.

#### Guam

- [Sevcik v. Sandoval](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014), though it wasn't until a couple was denied a license in April 2015 that the District of Guam court ruled that the couple should not have been denied a license given the ruling in the Ninth Circuit. This made Guam the first U.S. territory to permit same-sex couples to marry. In August 2015, the Guam legislature passed marriage equality legislation updating their marriage laws to permit marriage for same-sex couples.

#### Northern Mariana Islands

- [Sevcik v. Sandoval](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals, 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 2014), though it wasn't until the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June 2015 that the governor and the attorney general of the Islands announced that the territory would begin marrying same-sex couples.

#### Puerto Rico

- [Obergefell v. Hodges](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015). In June 2014, five same-sex couples sued in federal court challenging Puerto Rico's marriage ban as unconstitutional. The district court upheld the ban in October 2014 and the couples' appeal was held in



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abeyance as the Supreme Court decided the issue. After the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Obergefell* in June 2015, the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit sent the case back to the district court, while agreeing that the ban was unconstitutional. As a result of this judgment, same-sex couples were to marry starting in July 2015. Notwithstanding the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell* and the First Circuit's judgment, the federal district court judge overseeing the Puerto Rico case ruled that the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling did not apply to Puerto Rico because such right, according to the court, had not been incorporated to the territories. A few weeks later the First Circuit overturned the district holding that the rights to due process and equal protection had been incorporated as to Puerto Rico and that consequently *Obergefell* applied to the U.S. territory. Thereafter, another judge in Puerto Rico entered a final judgment striking down the territory's marriage ban.

#### U.S. Virgin Islands

- [\*Obergefell v. Hodges\*](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015), however, because of the absence of the lieutenant governor and opposition from senate president, the order implementing the Court's ruling did not go into effect until late July 2015.