



A FAIR AND JUST COLORADO

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COLORADO

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Tips for Couples
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Question & Answer

Tips for Couples

- The Colorado Civil Union Act will take effect on May 1, 2013.
 - **Requirements to apply for a civil union:**
 - Applicants must be 18 years of age.
 - Applicants must not be married or in a civil union with someone other than the person with whom they are applying.
 - The applicants must not be related as siblings, uncle and niece, uncle and nephew, aunt and niece, or aunt and nephew.

Tips for Couples

- If you have been previously married or in a civil union and are widowed or divorced, you must provide:
 - if you are widowed: the exact date (day, month, and year) of your partner's death.
 - if you are divorced: the exact date (day, month, and year) of your divorce, the location (city and state) of your divorce, the type (district, superior, circuit, etc.) of court in which your divorce proceeding occurred,
 - if your divorce is within 30 days preceding the date you apply for a civil union license you must provide a certified copy of your divorce decree.

Tips for Couples

- **Key documents / information you need to apply:**
 - One of these valid forms of identification: U.S. driver's license or permit, U.S. state-issued ID, U.S. military ID, or Passport (with certified English-language translation if non-English). You may NOT present a birth certificate, a baptismal certificate, or a Mexican Consular ID. Please note that your form of ID must be currently valid. No expired ID will be accepted.
 - Social Security Number: If you have a social security number, you are required to provide it. If either party doesn't have a social security number, they are not required to have one to enter into a civil union.
 - The place of birth (city and state) of each of your parents. No documentation is required, just a verbal response.
 - A check or cash to pay the \$30 fee. Credit cards are not accepted. Certified copies of civil union licenses are available upon request for \$1.25 each.

Tips for Couples

- **Process for obtaining a civil union license:**
 - After applying - you will be issued a civil union license, which may be used immediately upon issuance anywhere within Colorado - but is valid only for 35 days after issuance.
 - You may get your civil union certified by a judge of a court, a retired judge, a court magistrate, a public official whose powers include certification of civil unions, a Native-American tribe official, or clergy.
 - You must return your civil union license and your completed civil union certificate to your County Clerk & Recorder within 63 days for recording. Do not separate the certificate from the license. Recording enters your civil union into our records for future reference, and the original form will be returned to you at the return address you provided in your application.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will civil unions impact federal benefit programs and protections?**
- Civil unions only provide state-level protections and benefits. They will only impact benefit programs of the State of Colorado at this time. The federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) currently prevents the federal government from recognizing same-sex spouses for federal purposes such as Social Security survivor benefits, federal income and estate taxes, and immigration. It is unclear whether that will change due to litigation underway now.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will civil unions impact clergy, churches and other houses of worship?**
- Clergy, churches and other faith-based institutions will not be affected by civil unions; they will retain religious freedom to marry or bless unions based on their religious beliefs. No houses of worship or members of the clergy will be required to perform a union against their will or by compulsion of the government. The civil unions law will protect religious freedom for all houses of worship.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What if I have a marriage or civil union in another state – will it be recognized in Colorado?**
- A marriage, civil union, domestic partnership or substantially similar legal relationship between two persons that was legally created in another jurisdiction will be recognized as a civil union in Colorado.
- **How do civil unions affect transgender Coloradans?**
- Civil unions are available regardless of the gender of either party.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What if I have a marriage or civil union entered in another state years ago but we never legally dissolved the relationship. Can I get a civil union in Colorado?**
- To obtain a civil union in Colorado, you may not currently be in a marriage or civil union with another person. If you have previously been married or party to a civil union, the application for a Colorado civil union will require that you provide the name of the spouse or other party and either the date, place and court in which the marriage or civil union was dissolved or declared invalid, or the date and place of death of your deceased spouse or deceased party to a civil union.
- If you currently have a Designated Beneficiary Agreement in Colorado, it will be considered revoked upon your getting a civil union.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can a civil union be converted into a marriage after someone's gender marker has been changed?**
- No. You cannot convert a civil union into a marriage. You would have to dissolve the civil union and then get married.
- **Are dissolution (divorce), maintenance (alimony), child support, and child custody for parties to a civil union handled the same way as in marriage?**
- Yes. Generally speaking, dissolution, maintenance, child support and child custody are handled the same for civil unions and marriage.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will civil unions provide access to state worker programs for state employees in a civil union?**
- The Colorado Civil Union Act will provide access to the following benefits for state employees in a civil union: right to designate a party to a civil union as a beneficiary under the state public employees' retirement system, survivor benefits under local government firefighter or police pensions, and group benefit plans for state employees.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How will civil unions impact access to insurance?**
- For insurance policies issued, delivered or renewed on or after January 1, 2014, the Colorado Civil Union Act will allow parties to a civil union to cover their partner as a dependent in life insurance, health insurance and other insurance policies that provide coverage relating to joint ownership of property.

Questions and Answers

What are your questions about Civil Unions?

Please use the Question button on your Webinar screen to type in a question.

Thank you!

Thank you for attending
the Civil Unions Webinar!



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