



## SKAMANIA COUNTY AUDITOR

**Robert J. Waymire**

Skamania County Courthouse  
240 NW Vancouver Ave | PO Box 790  
Stevenson, WA 98648

(509) 427-3730  
Fax (509) 427-3740

**Can people who are already in a domestic partnership in Washington State get married?**

**Yes.** RCW 26.04.020 (1) Marriages in the following cases are prohibited: (a) When either party thereto has a spouse or registered domestic partner living at the time of such marriage, unless the registered domestic partner is the other party to the marriage;

**Can people who are in a civil union in another state come to Washington to get married?**

**Yes.** RCW 26.04.020 (4) A legal union, other than a marriage, between two individuals that was validly formed in another state or jurisdiction and that provides substantially the same rights, benefits, and responsibilities as a marriage, does not prohibit those same two individuals from obtaining a marriage license in Washington.

**If we are married in another state, can we get married here?**

**No.** If you are already legally married in another state and Washington State recognizes your marriage as valid, then you will not be issued a marriage license/certificate in the State of Washington. RCW 26.04.020 (1) Marriages in the following cases are prohibited: (a) When either party thereto has a spouse or registered domestic partner living at the time of such marriage, unless the registered domestic partner is the other party to the marriage.

**Will Washington State recognize a same gender marriage from another state?**

**Yes.** RCW 26.04.020 (3) A marriage between two persons that is recognized as *valid in another jurisdiction* is valid in this state only if the marriage is not prohibited or made unlawful under subsection (1)(a)((, (1)(c),)) or (2) of this section.

**Will our same gender marriage from Washington State be recognized by other states?**

**That is a legal question that we can't answer.** The couple will need to check with that state to see if their marriage will be recognized by that state.

**Will our same gender marriage be recognized by the IRS for tax purposes?**

**That is a legal question that we can't answer.** Publication 555, Community Property, is available on the IRS website, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). A qualified tax professional may be able to answer your question.

**Can my same gender spouse or I change our name using the marriage certificate?**

**That is a legal question that we can't answer.** You will need to verify with each state or federal agency whether a name change can be achieved with the presentation of a certified Washington State marriage certificate.

**My partner and I have a registered domestic partnership in Washington and don't want to get married. Can't we just stay as we are?**

**Yes and No.** Any registered domestic partnership between same gender partners will be automatically converted to marriage on June 30, 2014, unless one partner is at least 62 years of age on that date. If you have any questions about domestic partnerships or the automatic conversion to marriage, please contact the Corporations Division of the Secretary of State's Office at 360-725-0377.

**While we cannot answer legal questions related to the effects of marriage, LEGAL VOICE (a nonprofit entity) has developed a series of questions and answers that may be useful to same gender couples. You can visit their website at [www.legalvoice.org](http://www.legalvoice.org) to learn more.**

