

# Recognition of Same-Sex Couples Worldwide

## Recognition of Same-Sex Couples in the United States

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### RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX COUPLES WORLDWIDE

#### Countries allowing same-sex couples to marry:

2000 – The Netherlands                      2005 – Canada, Spain                      2009 – Norway, Sweden  
2003 – Belgium                                  2006 – South Africa                      2010 – Argentina, Iceland, Portugal

Mexico City allows same-sex couples to marry and, per the Mexico Supreme Court, married couples must be respected as such countrywide. Israel honors same-sex couples' marriages from elsewhere; Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten honor marriages from the Netherlands.

#### Countries recognizing same-sex couples through non-marital partnership registration, case law or other official policies include:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greenland, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela.

### RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX COUPLES IN THE UNITED STATES

#### States allowing same-sex couples to marry:

2004 – Massachusetts  
2008 – California (18,000 couples married between May and November), Connecticut  
2009 – Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont  
2010 – District of Columbia  
2011 – New York

#### States respecting same-sex couples' out-of-state marriages include:

Maryland (per AG opinion), New Mexico (per AG opinion), Rhode Island (likely for some purposes but not divorce). California respects out-of-state marriages as marriages if entered before 11/4/08 and as registered domestic partnerships if after 11/4/08. Illinois and New Jersey treat out-of-state marriages as civil unions.

#### States granting marriage-like legal protections to gay and lesbian couples:

California – Broad domestic partnership  
Hawai'i – Civil unions  
Illinois – Civil unions  
Nevada – Broad domestic partnership  
New Jersey – Civil unions  
Oregon – Broad domestic partnership  
Washington State – Broad domestic partnership

#### States offering limited recognition to same-sex couples:

Colorado, Maryland, Maine, Wisconsin