

# Domestic Partnership

## Frequently Asked Questions about Domestic Partnership in Washington, DC

### What is the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992?

Domestic partnership laws in Washington, DC authorizes unmarried persons, whether of the same sex or different gender regardless of one's place of residence, to register as domestic partners in the District of Columbia. Registration enables the partners to be eligible to receive health care insurance coverage if one of the partners currently or previously works for employed by the District government after 1987.

### What is the Domestic Partnership Registration Rule?

The Domestic Partnership Registration Rule implements the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992 by establishing the procedures and fees for registration, termination, and amendment of a declaration of domestic partnership.

### Who is eligible to participate?

Anyone, whether a resident or non-resident, may register a declaration of domestic partnership with another person, provided that both persons satisfy the registration requirements.

### What are the registration requirements to participate?

To register, applicants must be 18 years old or older, competent to contract, unmarried, and must not have entered into another domestic partnership. In addition, applicants must share a permanent residence.

### What are the benefits of participation?

- Healthcare and Decision Making
- Taxes
- Death and Inheritance
- Property
- Pre-marital Agreements & Alimony
- Government Services
- Protections Under DC Domestic Violence Laws

### What is the process of applying for a Domestic Partnership Certificate?

Both parties seeking to register as domestic partners must appear in person, provide documentation to establish that they satisfy the requirements for registration, submit a single application for registration, and pay the appropriate fee.

### Where do I apply for a Domestic Partnership Certificate?

DC Department of Health  
Vital Records Division  
825 North Capitol Street, NE  
Washington DC 20002  
(202) 442-9303

## What proof of mutual residence (living together) is required?

Submitting one (1) of the following documents may satisfy proof of mutual residence:

- current residential lease or rental agreements naming both applicants as occupants;
- current residential mortgage that names both applicants as mortgagors;
- deed for residential property stating that both applicants share title to the premises;
- current residential property utility bills naming both partners as responsible for payment; or
- affidavit executed within the previous 6 months, in which both parties state, under penalty of perjury, that they share the same residence.

## Is there an interview or oral examination involved?

An interview or examination is not required. However, the Registrar may examine applicants under oath to verify any of the information the applicants are required to provide.

## What are the fees?

Registration including one certificate	\$45
Certified copy of certificate	\$18
Domestic partnership amendment	\$10
Domestic partnership termination certificate	\$25
Withdrawal of termination	\$10
Certified copy of termination certificate	\$18
Record search	\$10

## Can I get a certificate of domestic partnership on the day I apply?

Although there is no minimum waiting period before receiving a certificate of domestic partnership, the registration is not complete until the Registrar verifies that the application is complete and that the applicants satisfy the requirements for registration. It may, therefore, take several days before a certificate is prepared. Once completed, the certificate can either be picked up or mailed.

## Are records of a domestic partnership registration public?

Under DC Official Code § 32-702(c) all information, except address information, contained in a declaration of domestic partnership is open to inspection as a public record.



Government of the District of Columbia  
Vincent C Gray, Mayor

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