

Frequently Asked Questions

Oregon Declaration of Domestic Partnership Form Oregon Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership Form

What is a Declaration of Domestic Partnership?

House Bill 2007, also known as the Oregon Family Fairness Act, was passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2007. This bill established the Declaration of Domestic Partnership. A same sex couple, wishing to register as legally recognized partners in a domestic partnership, can complete and file a Declaration of Domestic Partnership. For more information about the legal effects of this legislation, please visit:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measures/hb2000.dir/hb2007.en.html>

The Declaration of Domestic Partnership is a legal form. The forms must be signed by both individuals entering into the domestic partnership. Signatures must be acknowledged by a Notary Public. Completed, signed, and notarized forms must be signed by a County Clerk to be valid. The County Clerk then registers the form in a Domestic Partnership Registry. A copy of the completed form along with a "Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership" can be given to the partners in person or by mail.

What is a Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership?

House Bill 2007, also known as the Oregon Family Fairness Act, was passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2007. This bill established a Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership. Upon registering the Declaration of Domestic Partnership, the partners will receive a Certificate of Domestic Partnership. This certificate is a commemorative certificate that is suitable for display featuring an attractive design with calligraphy-like font, high quality paper, and a State of Oregon seal. The Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership is not a legal document.

How is a Domestic Partnership defined?

Domestic Partnership means the civil contract entered into in person between two individuals of the same sex who are at least 18 years of age, who are otherwise capable and at least one of whom is a resident of Oregon.

How old do partners have to be to enter into a domestic partnership?

The law requires the each individual must be at least 18 years of age.

Do both partners have to be Oregon residents?

No. Only one individual has to be an Oregon resident. State of residence is indicated on the form.

When is a domestic partnership prohibited or void?

Partnership is prohibited and void:

- When either party already has a living declared domestic partner, wife or husband,
- When the parties in the domestic partnership are first cousins or any nearer of kin to each other, whether of the whole or half blood or adoption, computing by the rules of the civil law,
- When either party is incapable of making the civil contract or consenting to the contract for want of legal age or sufficient understanding, or
- When the consent of either party is obtained by force or fraud, the domestic partnership is void from the time it is so declared by a judgment of a court having jurisdiction of the domestic partnership.

Can first cousins by adoption enter into a domestic partnership?

Yes, when parties are first cousins by adoption only, the domestic partnership is **not** prohibited or void.

How do I get a Declaration of Domestic Partnership form?

Forms are available to the public on the Department of Human Services, Center for Health Statistics web site at:

<http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/index.shtml>

Instructions for completing the forms are also available on the web site.

(NOTE: Forms printed from the web must be printed on legal sized paper – 8.5 inches by 14 inches. A gray stripe down the left hand side of the form is required to show that it is the standard approved form.)

You can also order the form via mail or email from the Center for Health Statistics.

Center for Health Statistics
Attn: Mary Ann Jensen
800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 225
Portland, OR 97232
Mary.ann.jensen@state.or.us

Please specify that you are ordering a Declaration of Domestic Partnership form, include your mailing address and day time phone number in correspondence.

County clerks throughout the state should also have forms available.

When will the forms be available?

The law goes into effect on February 1, 2008. The forms and instructions will be available to the public on the Center for Health Statistics web site on February 1, 2008. The declarations can be filed with a County Clerk starting February 4, 2008.

Can the forms be signed and dated before February 1, 2008?

No. The forms will not be available to the public prior to February 1, 2008. Forms that have signature, notary, or registration dates before February 1, 2008 will not be valid for registration by a County Clerk.

How is the Declaration of Domestic Partnership form completed?

This is a legal form and it must be completed in black or dark blue ink and should not be altered. Forms can be hand or type written. **All sections of the form need to be completed.** Please refer to step by step instructions for completing each item. The forms must be signed by both individuals entering into the domestic partnership. Signatures must be acknowledged by a notary public.

What do partners do once they have completed, signed and had the form notarized?

Completed, signed, and notarized forms must be signed and registered by a County Clerk to be valid. Contact your local County Clerk to get information on hours and fees. See the following web site for contact information

<http://www.oacclerks.org/OACC/countylist.aspx>

Is there a fee for registering the form with the County Clerk?

Yes, contact your local County Clerk for fee information.

Can partners complete the entire form at the County Clerk's office?

Contact your local County Clerk's office to get information on completing the form and associated fees. Remember that the form needs to be notarized, so make sure a notary is available at the County Clerk's office.

Do partners have to go the County Clerk's office in our county of residence?

No, you can register the form at any Oregon County Clerk's office.

Will partners receive a copy of the Declaration of Domestic Partnership?

The County Clerk will provide you a county copy of the form after it is registered. You should also receive a Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership. These documents can be given to you in person or mailed to you.

You can purchase certified copies of the declaration filed at the county when filed or at any time after the declaration is registered. Contact the County Clerk's office for fee information.

What happens to the original Declaration of Domestic Partnership once it is filed with the County Clerk?

Every County Clerk registering Declaration of Domestic Partnership forms must send the original forms completed during the preceding month to the Center for Health Statistics on or before the 10th day of each calendar month.

Is the Declaration of Domestic Partnership a vital record?

Declaration of Domestic Partnerships filed with the Center for Health Statistics are vital records. Access to the record is restricted for 50 years after the event to family members and their legal representatives, persons or organizations with a personal or property right.

How do I get a certified copy of my Declaration of Domestic Partnership from the Center for Health Statistics?

Certified vital record copies of the Declaration of Domestic Partnership can be ordered from the Center for Health Statistics, also known as Oregon Vital Records. Only family members, their legal representatives, or persons or organizations with a personal or property right can order certified copies. Orders will be taken after February 1, 2008. Certified copies of the Declaration only can be issued after the original completed forms are filed with the Center for Health Statistics. Original forms completed during the preceding month are sent to the Center for Health Statistics on or before the 10th day of each calendar month. Once at the Center for Health Statistics, the records must be registered and entered into the vital records system. Therefore, it may take up to six weeks from the date of registration of the Declaration at the county for the Center for Health Statistics to have the record available for issuance of certified copies.

The cost is \$20 for a first copy and \$15 for each additional copy ordered at the same time.

Certified copies can be ordered via mail, phone, in person or fax.

In person:

Oregon Vital Records
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 205
Portland, OR 97232-2162

Mail orders to:

Oregon Vital Records
P.O. Box 14050
Portland, Oregon 97293-0050

Phone orders: 971-673-1190

Fax orders: 971-673-1203

Internet orders: not currently available