

Marriage: What's all the fuss about?

According to the federal government's General Accounting Office, there are more than 1,049 automatic federal and additional state protections, benefits and responsibilities that accompany civil marriage. It is critical to understand what is at stake!

A heterosexual married couple receives:	A same sex couple receives:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to Social Security after spouse's death	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to life & health insurance through spouse's workplace	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The right to custody of children after divorce	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visitation rights for non-biological children	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint parenting rights, such as access to children's school records	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bereavement leave after death of a spouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Burial determination after the death of a spouse	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence intervention	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sick leave to care for spouse or non-biological child	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal validation of long-term relationship	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to live in neighborhoods deemed "families only"	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to file wrongful death claims	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right to shared property, child support, and alimony after divorce	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to file joint home & auto insurance policies	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint rental leases with automatic renewal rights if spouse dies or leaves	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to adopting children	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic inheritance of shared assets after spouses' death	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic inheritance of retirement savings tax-free after spouse's death	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to file joint tax returns	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to tax breaks for married couples	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterans discounts based on spouse's armed forces status	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assumption of spouse's pension after death	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to file joint bankruptcy	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to collect unemployment benefits after leaving a job to relocate because of a spouse's job move.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to transfer property from one spouse to another without transfer tax consequences	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to fostering children	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic next-of-kin status for emergency medical decisions and hospital visitation status	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Immigration and residency priority for spouses from other countries	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ability to invoke spousal privilege in a court of law	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to reduced rate memberships at health clubs, social clubs, organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prison Visitation Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>