

The City of Seattle's Domestic Partnership Registration Program

Since 1994, the City of Seattle has offered unmarried couples in long-term, committed relationships an opportunity to document those relationships by registering a domestic partnership with the Seattle City Clerk's Office.

Domestic Partnership Registration is voluntary, and does not create any new or different legal rights or responsibilities, or any contractual or financial obligations between those registered.

Who Can Register a Domestic Partnership with the City of Seattle?

Under City of Seattle Ordinance 117244, Domestic Partners are defined as any two people who:

- Are both 18 years of age or older;
- Are not married;
- Are not related to one another by blood in a manner that would bar their marriage in Washington State;
- Have a relationship of mutual support, caring, and commitment; and
- Do not have any other domestic partner.

The Domestic Partnership Registration Program does not require residence in Seattle; it is open to all persons anywhere who wish to participate. Recognition of this program by third parties (such as employers, insurers etc.) is at their discretion.

How to Register a Domestic Partnership with the City of Seattle

- Fill out the application completely and legibly;
- Both partners must sign the application and both signatures must be notarized;
- Bring or mail the application with the \$25 registration fee to the City Clerk's Office.
- Applications cannot be accepted by fax or e-mail, as the application must have original signatures and notarial seals to be valid
- When applying by mail, the fee can be paid by check or money order payable to "City of Seattle"; DO NOT SEND CASH IN THE MAIL
- When paying in person, payment can be made by check, cash, or money order

Other Important Information

- The Certificate of Registration is typically sent to the applicants within three business days of our receiving the application. Certificates are sent by U.S. Postal Service first-class mail.
- Certificates can be issued in person; please call ahead to arrange this service.
- Domestic Partnership Registration is not confidential. It is a public record under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Section 42.56.

If a Registered Domestic Partnership Ends

- To cancel the registration of a domestic partnership, fill out the [Domestic Partnership Termination Form](#) and mail it to the City Clerk's Office
- Only one partner needs to sign the form; the signature must be notarized
- A confirmation letter will be sent to the requesting partner

Who can I contact with questions?

City Clerk's Office staff are happy to help:

- Call us at 206-684-8344
- E-mail us at clerk@seattle.gov
- Visit us at City Hall, 600 4th Avenue (entrances on 4th and on 5th between James and Cherry) in downtown Seattle