



FAMILY LAW

*Written by John Stocks
Attorney at Law*

Client: Are same-sex marriages allowed in Washington state? If not, can a same-sex couple go to another state and get married?

Lawyer: The answer is no. Same sex marriages are not permitted in Washington. The only State that may have an opening in the law is Massachusetts because 2 years ago, same-sex marriage became legal in Massachusetts according to the highest court in that state. So far, however, no other state has legalized same-sex marriage. Massachusetts has been opposed to same-sex couples who are not Massachusetts residents -- using the "marriage evasion" law enacted by its legislature almost 100 years ago. In many states, civil union laws have been passed so that the state must extend to same-sex couples the same benefits that married couples receive. In Washington state, same-sex couples can achieve similar, but not the same, benefits of married couples and can pursue domestic partnership agreements to attempt to provide proof of a committed relationship and entitlement to the same benefits as married couples.

*This is a new column written by John S. Stocks of Van Siclén, Stocks & Firkins, which answers questions posed to him by clients and/or by e-mails on the subject of FAMILY LAW. Feel free to submit your family law question to John via e-mail. There is no charge for this and your question may appear in a future column. E-mail your question to:
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