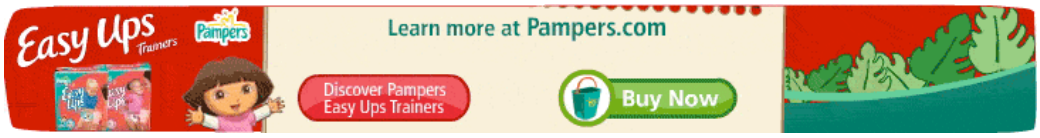


Most Viewed Most Emailed
(From the last 12 hours) RSS

1. Apple's bait: Application developers swarm to iPhone
2. Father who beat tot to death is identified
3. Minutes of horror as Turlock father beats, kills his son
4. Raiders WR Javon Walker found on street unconscious
5. Purdy: This one was beyond classic Tiger
6. Raiders receiver Walker beaten, left unconscious in Las Vegas robbery

Top Classifieds

RENTALS JOBS REAL ESTATE AUTOS

Computer Engineer Software Quality Assurance
Palm Inc

Sales
Click for Details

Software Engineer
Comsys Company

drivers
Click for Details

Technical Recruiter
Comsys Company

Engineering IC Dsgn Engineer
LSI Corporation

Floral Sales
Click for Details

Roofing Laborers, Shingle Apprentice and Journeymen
Roofing Company

ALL LISTINGS

License to wed draws gay couples to California

By Mary Anne Ostrom
Mercury News
Article Launched: 06/16/2008 01:31:33 AM PDT

Good weather, golden scenery and now gay marriage are drawing out-of-staters this summer to California.

Gay and lesbian couples during the next week and months are coming from New York, Texas and Kansas, to name just a few states where lovebirds of the same gender are denied a marriage license.

In most cases, the marriages will not be recognized or confer many, if any, new rights on these couples. Several of those making the trek want to make a political point back home.

"We're proud to be from Kansas. It was a state founded on freedom and equality. We're just trying to carry on the tradition," said Mike Silverman, a software engineer from Lawrence, Kan. Voters in his state in 2005 added a ban on such unions to the state constitution.

Video
Gay pride parade

Silverman and his partner, David Greenbaum, plan to wear University of Kansas T-shirts and bring a Kansas flag to their 9 a.m. Tuesday ceremony at San Francisco City Hall. Silverman extended his stay from last week's Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference to be in San Francisco on June 17, and is blogging daily about the evolving wedding plans.

"Having a marriage certificate from an American state is very important. It's more than just a piece of paper. It was issued by a government in the United States," he said.

The California marriage license will go up on the wall of their home, next to the ketubah, a Jewish marriage agreement, from a ceremony the couple held nine years ago at a Nebraska synagogue.

Click photo to enlarge

Participants "Dykes on Bikes" ride through downtown San Jose on Sunday. (Josie Lepe / Mercury News)

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | »

Full coverage
Special Report: Same-Sex Marriage
RSS feed of latest stories

Related Stories
Jun 16:
Marriage license info for same-sex couples

Advertisement

Since 2004, Massachusetts has allowed same-sex couples who live in or plan to move to the commonwealth to wed, and it recognizes unions granted in countries where same-sex marriage is legal. But California is the only state offering same-sex marriage licenses to non-residents.

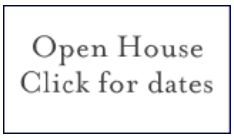
Some day, several out-of-state couples said, they hope their own states recognize their unions.

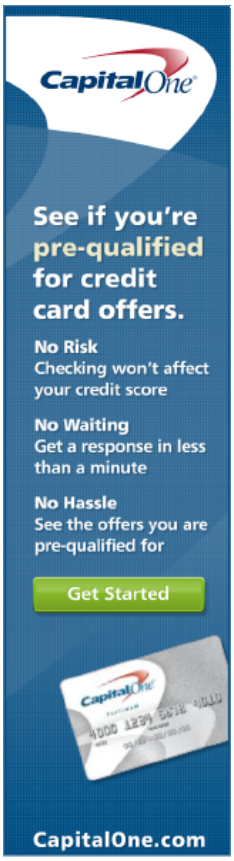
Patience can pay off. California gays and lesbians who earlier married in other countries where same-sex marriages are legal, such as Canada and Spain, will automatically have their marriages recognized by the state at 5:01 p.m. on Monday.

Legal experts suggest it will be several years before the issue reaches the U.S. Supreme Court, and there is a possibility of a ruling, pro or con, that would be applied nationally.

In the meantime, there is a patchwork of different rules state-by-state, almost all denying marriage to same-sex residents, even if the license was legally granted elsewhere.

Advertisement





Last week, pro-gay-marriage legal groups issued an advisory to out-of-state couples, asking them to refrain from suing their own states for recognition after returning home with a California license. In several states, such lawsuits have produced new constitutional or legislative bans, and these proponent groups have a strategy to target more liberal states first.

So, in most cases for now, same-sex couples wed in California will gain no marriage rights, unless they move to California or Massachusetts. Only three states have no laws either explicitly condoning or prohibiting same-sex marriages: New Mexico, Rhode Island and New York.

Dozens, if not more, of New York state couples are heading west, after Gov. David Paterson last month ordered state agencies to recognize marriages of same-sex couples, if they were performed in California, Massachusetts and other countries where it is legal. He cited a February 2008 New York appellate court decision that ordered a New York community college to offer health benefits to the same-sex partner of an employee who wed in Canada.

The evolving guidelines in New York prompted Dan Whitman to lay out a picnic spread on a Hudson River pier one recent evening to propose to his partner of eight years. At sunset, looking west from a New York City bench "at scenic New Jersey," Whitman said with a laugh, he asked his partner, "Will you marry me in California?"

He said yes.

Contact Mary Anne Ostrom at mostrom@mercurynews.com or (415) 477-3794.

RePrint Print Email Return to Top

Comments

We are pleased to let readers post comments about an article. Please increase the credibility of your post by including your full name and city in the body of your comment.
FAQ: Article commenting how-tos and tips

Recent Comments

Post Your Comment

Breaking News

Bank economists say home prices yet to bottom
Southern California mom gets six months for giving teens laughing gas
Same-sex marriages begin in Santa Clara County
U.S., China start high-stakes business conference
Cost of solar energy to fall dramatically by 2025
UC Berkeley police officers trying to bring down tree protesters
Raiders receiver Walker beaten, left unconscious in Las Vegas robbery
Patchy fog, low 80s today

Car Insurance Quotes Online
Compare auto insurance quotes from top companies online.
www.insurance.com

Refinance $300,000 for Only $965/Month
$300,000 Mortgage for only $965/month. Save $1,000's - No obligation.
www.HomeLoanHelpLine.com

Refinance and Save $1,000S
$150,000 Mortgage for $483/month. Compare up to 4 free quotes.
www.pickamortgage.com

Ads by Yahoo!

Copyright 2008 San Jose Mercury News

MediaNews Group - Northern California Network

Help/Contact | Site Map | Advertise | Home Delivery | Copyright | Privacy Policy and Terms of Use | About MediaNews Group | RSS | Ethics Policy | About Bay Area News Group | REAL Cities |

MY YAHOO!