

Legal Resources

These are some ways to find legal resources in your community:

- ◆ Ask a family member, friend, or coworker for a referral to a lawyer.
- ◆ Consult a lawyer referral service. See www.wsba.org, under "Resources."
- ◆ For self-help information on a variety of legal topics, see <http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/>.
- ◆ For those with low income who live outside King County, call the Northwest Justice Project's CLEAR line at 1-888-201-1014.
- ◆ A list of legal service providers for those with low income who live within King County can be found by calling 211 or (206) 461-3200.
- ◆ Court forms and instructions can be downloaded at www.courts.wa.gov/forms/ and at <http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/>.

To download a complete copy of the Domestic Partnership Family Law Handbook, visit the Washington Courts Web site at <http://www.courts.wa.gov/>, under Resources.



The Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was established by the 1957 Legislature to “advance the efficient and effective operation of the Washington judicial system.” The agency operates under the direction and supervision of the Chief Justice of the Washington State Supreme Court, pursuant to Chapter 2.56 RCW.

For more information, visit www.courts.wa.gov



Domestic Partnership Family Law Handbook 2014 Summary



2014 Domestic Partnership Family Law Handbook Summary



The Family Law Handbook was developed to help you understand family law in Washington State.

The Legislature initially directed the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to create a Family Law Handbook for individuals getting a marriage license. The AOC asked that the Secretary of State provide this summary of the Domestic Partnership Family Law Handbook to individuals filing a Declaration of State-Registered Domestic Partnership. The Handbook is also distributed to individuals filing, or responding to, an action to dissolve their domestic partnership.

The Handbook may help you understand the rights and responsibilities partners have to each other and any children during and after the domestic partnership.

Chapters in the Handbook Include:

- ◆ WASHINGTON STATE-REGISTERED DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS
- ◆ PRE-PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS
- ◆ ENDING A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP
- ◆ PROPERTY RIGHTS: DIVIDING ASSETS AND DEBT
- ◆ MAINTENANCE (ALIMONY)
- ◆ THE EFFECTS OF DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP ON CHILDREN
- ◆ SHARED PARENTING FOR PARENTS DISSOLVING THEIR PARTNERSHIP
- ◆ RELOCATION OF CHILDREN
- ◆ CHILD SUPPORT
- ◆ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- ◆ CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
- ◆ COMMUNITY RESOURCES

While the Handbook is not designed to give legal advice, it will provide general information about the partnership contract and laws about dissolution of partnerships in Washington State. Domestic partnership law is new to Washington and is evolving. Significant changes were made to marriage and domestic partnership law, effective December 6, 2012, and June 30, 2014. It is always a good idea to consult with an attorney about your rights and responsibilities regarding any legal issue, including starting or ending a domestic partnership.

Community Resources and Helpful Web Sites:

- ◆ Pre-partnership and couples counseling.
- ◆ Couples and partnership support groups sponsored by religious organizations.
- ◆ Community Health Departments and Districts. See www.doh.wa.gov or call the health department or district listed in your local directory.
- ◆ Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). See www1.dshs.wa.gov or call your local DSHS Community Services Office.
- ◆ Legal Voice
Information about domestic partnerships, rights, and responsibilities may be found at Legal Voice, <http://www.legalvoice.org/tools/lgbt.html>.
- ◆ Support Groups — A list of local, state, and national resources for families can be found at <http://parenting.wsu.edu/resources>.