

Same Sex Legal Issues

Alyson F. Lembeck, Esq.

Ellis Funk, P.C.

One Securities Centre, Suite 400
3490 Piedmont Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30305
alembeck@ellisfunk.com
(404) 233-2800

I. Introduction

- ✚ Same Sex Couples in Georgia: Where are we now?
 - Nearly 30,000 same-sex couples in Georgia as of 2010

II. A Brief Overview of The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)

- ✚ What it means for domestic partnerships

III. The Legalities: Protecting Your Family of Choice

- ✚ Domestic Partnership Agreements & their purpose
 - Contractual Law v. Family Law

IV. The Whole Picture: Other Legal Issues to Consider

1. Wills: Distribution of Property

- ✚ Appointing an executor

2. Advance Directive for Health Care: Medical Treatments

- ✚ Making decisions about your health

3. Financial Power of Attorney: Who's in Charge of the Money?

- ✚ Appointing an agent to manage your finances

V. Name Change Petitions: The Identity of You and Your Family

- ✚ Sharing Your Partner's Last Name
 - Filing a name change
 - Transgender issues: Name changes & new birth certificates

VI. Raising a Family: Who makes decisions for the Children?

- ✚ Power of Attorney for minor children
- ✚ Legal-standing for the non-biological parent
- ✚ Second Parent Adoption