

REGISTERING A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP IN NEW JERSEY

What are the requirements to register a Domestic Partnership?

Couples wishing to register a Domestic Partnership must be same sex couples OR opposite sex couples who are both 62 years of age or older. Couples must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Share a common residence in New Jersey or in any other jurisdiction provided that at least one of the applicants is a member of a New Jersey State-administered retirement system;
- 2) Both persons are jointly responsible for each other's common welfare as evidenced by joint financial arrangements or joint ownership of real or personal property;
- 3) Both persons agree to be jointly responsible for each other's basic living expenses during the domestic partnership;
- 4) Neither applicant is in a marriage or civil union recognized by New Jersey law or a member of another domestic partnership;
- 5) Neither person is related to the other by blood or affinity up to and including the fourth degree of consanguinity;
- 6) Both persons have chosen to share each other's lives in a committed relationship of mutual caring;
- 7) Neither applicant has terminated another domestic partnership within the last 180 days. (This prohibition shall not apply when the previous partnership ended due to the death of the other partner.)

Where can you obtain an Affidavit of Domestic Partnership?

The Affidavit of Domestic Partnership form must be obtained from a Local Registrar of Vital Statistics in any municipality in the State of New Jersey. The Affidavit of Domestic Partnership does not have to be obtained (or filed) in the municipality in which the domestic partners reside. A list of Local Registrars is available on the Department of Health and Senior Services website at <http://nj.gov/health/vital/regbycnty.shtml>. The Affidavit of Domestic Partnership must be completed and signed by both applicants at the same time, in the presence of a notary public, and notarized. Many Local Registrar Offices have notaries on staff; please call to verify this information with the Local Registrar.

What should you bring when completing the Affidavit of Domestic Partnership with a notary public?

Each applicant must supply valid identification that establishes name, age, date of birth and proof of residency. This may be supplied by one or more documents issued by a government agency, such as a certified copy of a birth certificate, driver's license, military identification or state/county identification card.

Where should the Affidavit of Domestic Partnership be filed?

The Affidavit of Domestic Partnership must be filed and registered with the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics in any municipality in the State of New Jersey. The Affidavit of Domestic Partnership does not have to be filed or registered in the municipality in which the domestic partners reside.