

# D.C. Code Definition of Domestic Partnership

§ 32-701 (3) "Domestic partnership" means the relationship between 2 persons who become domestic partners by registering in accordance with [§ 32-702](#).

## [§ 32-702. Domestic partnership registration and termination procedures.](#)

(a) To establish the existence of a domestic partnership and to qualify for benefits under [§§ 32-704](#), [32-705](#), and [32-706](#), persons shall register as domestic partners by executing a declaration of domestic partnership to be filed with the Mayor. For the purposes of this section, the declaration shall be signed by the domestic partners and shall affirm under penalty of perjury that each domestic partner:

- (1) Is at least 18 years old and competent to contract;
- (2) Is the sole domestic partner of the other person; and
- (3) Is not married.

(b) Before accepting a declaration of domestic partnership, the Mayor may examine any applicant under oath to ascertain the names and ages of the persons desiring to register as domestic partners and any other information as required by subsection (a) of this section.

(c) All information contained in a declaration of domestic partnership, except the address of the partners, shall be open to inspection as a public record.

(d) A domestic partner may terminate the domestic partnership by filing a termination statement with the Mayor. The person filing the termination statement shall declare that:

(1) The domestic partnership is to be terminated; and

(2) A copy of the termination statement has been served on the other domestic partner if the termination statement is not signed by both domestic partners.

(e) A termination statement filed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall take effect 6 months after the statement is filed. During this period, benefits shall continue to accrue.

(f) A District government employee who is separated from service, or an employee's dependent child who ceases to be a dependent, may be eligible for extended health benefits coverage in accordance with [§ 1-621.14](#).

(g) In accordance with the rules issued pursuant to [§ 32-708](#), the Mayor may charge a fee for filing a declaration of domestic partnership, a domestic partnership termination statement, and for filing any amendments to the declaration or termination statement.

(h) Private sector employees may register as domestic partners by executing a declaration of domestic partnership to be filed with the Mayor in accordance with subsections (a) through (g) of this section.