

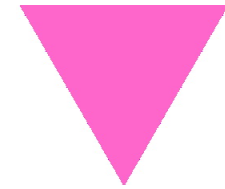
**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.
THEY ARE IMPORTANT.
PERIOD.**

**Proudly Serving the
Lesbian & Gay
Community
Since 2002**

LESBIAN & GAY

RIGHTS

“Client-Focused Legal Solutions”



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AN OVERVIEW

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The law, as it applies to the lesbian and gay community, is an ever-changing landscape. Legislators will continue to enact laws that either expand or restrict the rights of gays and lesbians-- on both a state and federal level. Lawsuits will be filed in opposition to those laws and the outcome of those lawsuits will alter the fate of every member of the GLBTI community. It is certain that gay and lesbian law will continue to change for years to come. For that reason, it is important to remember that the information presented in this brochure is meant to be an overview. Specific legal questions should always be addressed to a licensed attorney.

The State of Connecticut has enacted legislation that grants the following rights and protections to Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual individuals who are also citizens of the State of Connecticut :

- It is against State law for a lender to discriminate against any adult because of her or his sexual orientation.
- An employer cannot fire you, deny you a promotion, nor deny you a job opportunity, because of your sexual orientation.
- You have the right to a room in any hotel, a table at any restaurant, and entrance to any venue of public entertainment (other than a private club) you can afford, and cannot be discriminated against because of your sexual orientation.
- Any professional association whose members are licensed by the State of

Connecticut cannot bar you from membership because of your sexual orientation.

- You are legally entitled under State law to buy any house or condo you can afford or to rent any apartment you choose, with the specific exception of a roominghouse or an owner-occupied dwelling of four units or less, regardless of your sexual orientation.
- Any person who injures or credibly threatens to injure the person or property of a lesbian or gay person because of the victim's sexual orientation may be charged with a hate crime, and if convicted, sentenced to at least a year in jail.
- You cannot be denied any state service for which you otherwise qualify, based upon your sexual orientation.
- All lesbian and gay public school students are entitled to protection of school authorities against harassment and are entitled to enjoy equal access to all school programs and activities.
- You have the right to designate, in writing, someone not related to you by blood to take charge of your funeral, burial or cremation arrangements.
- You have the right to leave any of your real or personal property to persons not related to you by blood, by means of a written will and/or deed. In the absence of these legal documents, all of your property will be inherited by your biological family, according to the

statutory scheme in effect at the time of your death.

- You have the right to name, in writing, someone not related to you by blood, to make decisions for you and to have unimpeded access to you in the event of a medical emergency. (Absent a written legal document, your biological family can make emergency medical decisions and enjoy unimpeded access to you in the event of a medical emergency).
- If you are a state employee, you have the right to extend healthcare and other benefits to an unmarried domestic partner.
- A lesbian or gay individual may adopt a child under Connecticut State law. However, a gay or lesbian couple cannot adopt a child as a couple.
- If you are the sole parent of a minor child (meaning that no other parent exists or retains parental rights), you may nominate another adult of any gender to share guardianship of your minor child, subject to approval by your town's probate court.

The information presented here is not a substitute for professional legal advice and is not intended to form an attorney/client relationship.