

ARTICLE II. - DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Sec. 22-21. - Purpose; limitations.

In this article, the city authorizes and establishes a voluntary program of registration of domestic partners. The domestic partnership registry is a means by which unmarried, committed couples who reside in the city and who share a life and home together may document their relationship. This article derives from city ordinance and does not create rights, privileges, or responsibilities that are available to married couples under state or federal law.

(Code 1986, § 1025.01)

Sec. 22-22. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Domestic partner means any two adults who meet all the following:

- (1) Are not related by blood closer than permitted under marriage laws of the state.
- (2) Are not married.
- (3) Are competent to enter into a contract.
- (4) Are jointly responsible to each other for the necessities of life.
- (5) Are committed to one another to the same extent as married persons are to each other, except for the traditional marital status and solemnities.
- (6) Do not have any other domestic partners.
- (7) Are both at least 18 years of age.
- (8) Reside in the city.

Domestic partnership means, upon production of valid, government-issued documentation, in addition to domestic partnerships registered with the city, and regardless of whether partners in either circumstance have sought further registration with the city the following:

- (1) Any persons who have a currently-registered domestic partnership with a governmental body pursuant to state, local or other law authorizing such registration. The term domestic partnership shall be construed liberally to include unions, regardless of title, in which two individuals are committed to one another as married persons are traditionally committed, except for the traditional marital status

and solemnities.

- (2) Marriages that would be legally recognized as a contract of lawful marriage in another local, state or foreign jurisdiction, but for the operation of state law.

(Code 1986, § 1025.03)

Sec. 22-23. - Procedure.

- (a) The city clerk shall accept an application in a form provided by the city to register domestic partners who state in such application that they meet the definition of domestic partners.
- (b) The city clerk shall charge an application fee for the registration of domestic partners and shall charge a fee for providing certified copies of registrations, amendments, or notices of termination. The fees required by this section shall be as established by the city council.
- (c) The city clerk shall provide each domestic partner with a registration certificate. The registration certificate shall not be issued prior to the third working day after the date of the application.
- (d) This application and certificate may be used as evidence of the existence of a domestic partner relationship.
- (e) The city clerk shall keep a record of all registrations of domestic partnership, amendments to registrations and notices of termination. The records shall be maintained so that amendments and notices of termination are filed with the registration of domestic partnership to which they pertain.
- (f) The application and amendments thereto, the registration certificate, and termination notices shall constitute government data and will be subject to disclosure pursuant to the terms of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

(Code 1986, § 1025.05)

Sec. 22-24. - Amendments.

The city clerk may accept amendments for filing from persons who have domestic partnership registrations on file, except amendments which would replace one of the registered partners with another individual.

(Code 1986, § 1025.07)

Sec. 22-25. - Termination of registration.

Domestic partnership registration terminates when one of the partners dies or 45 days after one partner sends the other partner written notice, on a form provided by the city, that he is terminating the partnership and files the notice of termination and an affidavit of service of the notice on the other partner with the city clerk.

(Code 1986, § 1025.09)