



## Domestic Partnerships in Maryland

In 2008, Maryland made [domestic partnerships](#) available as an [alternative to marriage](#). Domestic partnerships are available for couples who:

- Are at least 18 years of age
- Are not related by blood or marriage to within 4 degrees of consanguinity (i.e. no marriage to first cousins or closer relatives)
- Are both not married or in a domestic partnership with another individual
- Agree to be in a relationship of mutual interdependence where each individual contributes to the maintenance and support of the other individual and the relationship, even if both individuals are not required to contribute equally to the relationship

Couples who wish to become domestic partners must provide two pieces of documentation evidence of their bond; examples may include proof of joint liability for a mortgage, lease, or loan, a joint checking account, a life insurance policy where a partner is the beneficiary, or a relationship or cohabitation contract.