



Press Release 11th December 2013

More Foreign Marriages and Partnerships of Same-Sex Couples Recognised in Ireland

The **Minister for Justice and Equality, Alan Shatter TD.**, has made an order recognising marriages of lesbian and gay couples from the **four countries, six US States, and States in Australia and Mexico who have changed their laws to allow these marriage in 2013.** The order also recognises the new Civil Unions of lesbian and gay couples in Jersey (UK) and Colorado.

People in these relationships living in Ireland are now able to avail of the comprehensive rights and entitlements that apply to Irish Civil Partnerships.

“The recognition of marriage in France, Brazil, New Zealand, Uruguay, Australian Capital Territory and in six US States is excellent news for any couples based in Ireland who have availed of the rapidly improving environment for lesbian and gay couples” said Kieran Rose, GLEN Chair.

“Minister Shatter and the Government are to be congratulated for continuing to update the Civil Partnership legislation, as promised in the Programme for Government” Rose continued.

“Recognising these new relationships prior to the end of the 2013 ensures that any couples based in Ireland who have availed of the new laws in any of the countries will have the benefits, including equal treatment in the tax laws, applied to them for all of 2013” said Rose.

“This sends a **very strong signal of the Government’s support for lesbian and gay people, and builds on the historic commitment to hold a referendum in 2015 to allow lesbian and gay couples to marry in Ireland**” continued Rose.

“The continuing commitment to recognise changes across the world also sends a clear message, in particular to businesses critical to Ireland’s recovery, that **Ireland is an open and forward looking country**” said Rose.

The order will come into effect on 31st December 2013. It builds on previous similar orders which now means that **57 forms of marriage or civil partnership of lesbian and gay couples from 45 jurisdictions are now recognised in Ireland, and have the same rights and entitlements as Irish Civil Partnership.** This includes equal treatment with married couples

across a comprehensive range of areas including inheritance, tax, pensions, shared property, social welfare, citizenship, immigration, equality provisions and next of kin status.

Announcing the making of the order, Minister Shatter noted that “there will be further changes in 2014, not least the opening out of marriage to same-sex couples in England Wales. These will be recognised in future orders”.

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Editors Notes:

(i) Marriage becomes legal in 2013 in:

- Brazil
- France
- New Zealand
- Uruguay
- Australian Capital Territory
- US States of Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey and Rhode Island

(ii) Guide to Civil Partnership

The comprehensive marriage-like rights and obligations attaching to civil partnership are outlined in a [GLEN/ICCL ‘Know Your Rights’ guide](#)

(iii) Full list of Foreign Relationships now recognised in Ireland

Previous orders under section 5 of the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010 were made in December 2010, December 2011, December 2012 and in December 2013. The full list of relationships now recognised under section 5 orders are listed below (newly recognised relationships are marked with an asterisk):

| Jurisdiction | Title of Relationship |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Argentina | Marriage |
| Australian Capital Territory* | Marriage |
| Austria | Eingetragene Partnerschaft-Gesetz |

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| Belgium | Marriage |
| Brazil* | Marriage |
| Canada | Marriage |
| Czech Republic | Registrované partnerství |
| Denmark | (a) Registreret partnerskab (b) Marriage |
| Finland | Rekisteröity parisuhde |
| France* | Marriage |
| Germany | Eingetragene Lebenspartnerschaft |
| Iceland | (a) Staðfest samvist (b) Marriage |
| Isle of Man | Civil Partnership |
| Jersey* | Civil Partnership |
| Mexico City | Marriage |
| Quintana Roo (Mexico) | Marriage |
| Netherlands | Marriage |
| New Zealand | Civil Union |
| New Zealand* | Marriage |
| Norway | (a) Registrert partnerskap (b) Marriage |
| Portugal | Marriage |
| South Africa | (a) Marriage (b) Civil Partnership |
| Spain | Marriage |
| Sweden | (a) Registrerat partnerskap (b) Marriage |
| Switzerland | Eingetragene Partnerschaft / Partenariat enregistré |
| United Kingdom | Civil Partnership |
| California (United States of America) | Marriage |

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|---|---------------------------------|
| Colorado (United States of America)* | Civil Union |
| Connecticut (United States of America) | (a) Civil Union (b) Marriage |
| Delaware (United States of America) | Civil Union |
| Delaware (United States of America)* | Marriage |
| Hawaii (United States of America) | Civil Union |
| Illinois (United States of America) | Civil Union |
| Iowa (United States of America) | Marriage |
| Maine (United States of America)* | Marriage |
| Maryland (United States of America)* | Marriage |
| Minnesota (United States of America)* | Marriage |
| Massachusetts (United States of America) | Marriage |
| New Hampshire (United States of America) | (a) Civil Union (b) Marriage |
| New Jersey (United States of America) | Civil Union |
| New Jersey (United States of America)* | Marriage |
| New York (United States of America) | Marriage |
| Oregon (United States of America) | Domestic Partnership |
| Rhode Island (United States of America) | Civil Union |
| Rhode Island (United States of America)* | Marriage |
| Vermont (United States of America) | (a) Civil Union (b) Marriage |
| Washington D.C. (United States of America) | Marriage |
| Washington State (United States of America) | Marriage |
| Uruguay* | Marriage |