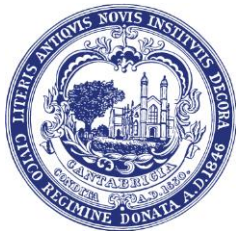


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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Office of the City Solicitor
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

December 29, 2022

Diane LeBlanc
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 01239

Re: Request to Update the Domestic Partnership Page of the City's Website

Dear Madame Clerk,

On September 8, 2022, the City Clerk's Office received an e-mail requesting that the Clerk's Office update the language on the City's website¹ to reflect the amendments to the City's Domestic Partnership Ordinance, Chapter 2.119 of the Cambridge Municipal Code (the "Municipal Code"), that were adopted by the City Council on March 8, 2021. On September 23, 2022, you requested that the Law Department review the language on the City's website relative to domestic partnerships and recommend any necessary revisions to the language. The current language on the City's website reads in part:

You and your partner must come to the City Clerk's Office in person to file a Domestic Partner Registration, which both partners must sign under the pains and penalties perjury. The Registration can be amended to add or delete dependents or change the household address...

Additional information

- › To be domestic partners, you and your partner must reside together in a relationship of mutual support, caring and commitment, be 18 or over, and consider yourselves to be a family.
 - "Reside together" means living together in a common household. A partner may be temporarily absent from the common household, so long as she or he has the intent to return. A partner may own or maintain an additional residence.

¹ <https://www.cambridgema.gov/iwantto/applyforadomesticpartnership>

- › Neither of you can be married to anyone, and neither of you can have a different domestic partner. If either of you had a different domestic partner before, you have to wait six months and seven days after the old domestic partnership ended before you can set up a new one. You don't have to wait if your old partnership ended because your partner died.
- › You cannot be related to your partner as a parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sister or brother, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent or grandchild, or any other relationship that would bar marriage.

On March 8, 2021, the City Council voted to amend Chapter 2.119 of the Municipal Code, titled Domestic Partnerships, to read in part as follows:

D. "Domestic partnership" means the entity formed by two or more persons who meet the following criteria and jointly file a registration statement proclaiming that:

1. They are in a relationship of mutual support, caring and commitment and intend to remain in such a relationship; and
2. They are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and
3. They are competent to contract; and
4. They consider themselves to be a family.²

Based on the amendments to Chapter 2.119 of the Municipal Code, I recommend that you update the website as follows:

How to start

- › Partners must come to the City Clerk's Office in person to file a Domestic Partner Registration. All partners must sign under the pains and penalties perjury. The Registration can be amended to add or delete dependents or change the household address.
- › Pay the fee of \$35
- › The City Clerk will mail you a Certificate of Domestic Partnership and wallet-sized cards indicating the existence of the partnership, the names of the domestic partners, and the names of the dependents of the domestic partnership, if any.

City Clerk's Office
 Cambridge City Hall
 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Room 103
 Cambridge, MA 02139

Monday: 8:30am-8pm
 Tuesday-Thursday: 8:30am-5pm

² Please note that the March 8, 2021 amendments have not been codified in the Municipal Code as of this date.

Friday: 8:30am-12pm

Requirements

- › For more information click on the Cambridge Municipal Code regarding Domestic Partnerships

Additional information

- › To be domestic partners, you and your partner(s) must be in a relationship of mutual support, caring and commitment, be competent to contract, be 18 or over, and consider yourselves to be a family.
- › You cannot be related to your partner(s) as a parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sister or brother, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent or grandchild, or any other relationship that would bar marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- › If any member of the domestic partnership is married or in another domestic partnership, notice of the registration of this domestic partnership and/or of the addition of new partner(s) to this domestic partnership must be given, by certified mail, to any marital or domestic partners outside of this domestic partnership.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Nancy E. Glowa
City Solicitor