



CITY OF COLUMBIA/BOONE COUNTY, MISSOURI

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CITY OF COLUMBIA DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP REGISTRY POLICY GUIDANCE

Definitions

Domestic Partners: Two adults who share the same principal residence, and are jointly responsible for the basic necessities of life. The individuals need not contribute equally to the cost of these necessities, as long as they agree that both are responsible for the cost.

Basic Necessities of Life: The cost of essential food, shelter and other fundamental needs.

Dependent: A person who resides within the household of a registered domestic partnership and is:

- ❖ A biological, adopted, or foster child of a registered domestic partner; or
- ❖ A dependent as defined under United States Internal Revenue Service regulations; or
- ❖ A ward of a registered domestic partner as determined in a guardianship or other legal proceeding.

Declaration of Domestic Partnership

To establish a domestic partnership, two individuals must file a joint declaration of domestic partnership at the Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Services affirming that they:

- ❖ have resided together for at least six months,
- ❖ each intends to reside with the other and share the common necessities of life,
- ❖ are each 18 years of age or older,
- ❖ are mentally competent to contract,
- ❖ are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage in the State of Missouri,
- ❖ are not married to any person other than their domestic partner,
- ❖ are each other's sole domestic partner, and
- ❖ and neither has a current declaration of domestic partnership on file in this city.

The declaration of domestic partnership form requires each registrant to:

- ❖ Affirm that he or she meets the requirements of section 12-73 of this article,
- ❖ Provide the mailing address of the common residence, and
- ❖ Sign the form attesting that all statements are true and correct.

Individuals filing a declaration of domestic partnership must pay a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to the City of Columbia. The city will register the declaration of domestic partnership submitted by the partners and return a copy of the declaration to the domestic partners at the address provided as their common residence.

1005 W. Worley St. ♦ P.O. Box 6015 ♦ Columbia, Missouri 65205-6015
Phone: (573) 874-7347 ♦ TTY: (573) 874-7356 ♦ Fax: (573) 874-7756
Email: Health@gocolumbiamo.com
www.GoColumbiaMo.com/Health/DomesticPartnershipRegistry.php

Termination of Domestic Partnership

If the facts affirmed in the declaration of domestic partnership cease to be true, one or both parties to a domestic partnership shall file a notice of termination at the Columbia/Boone County Department of Health and Human Services. A domestic partnership ends when:

- ❖ One of the domestic partners dies, marries a person other than their domestic partner, or enters into a civil union or registered domestic partnership with someone other than his or her registered domestic partner; or
- ❖ A notice of termination of domestic partnership has been filed by one or both domestic partners with the city.

Individuals filing a notice of termination of domestic partnership must pay a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to the City of Columbia. Upon receipt of the notice of termination, the City will document the termination in the registry and return a copy of the notice to each of the partners if jointly filed; or two copies to the filing partner if filed by only one partner. If only one partner files a notice, this partner shall, within five (5) days, send a copy of the filed notice to the other partner's last known address. However, this requirement shall not apply if the termination is due to the death of one of the domestic partners.

Termination of a domestic partnership shall be effective upon filing of the notice of termination of domestic partnership with the City by one or both partners, or on the date of the death of one of the domestic partners.

Notice to Third Parties: Following the termination of a domestic partnership, each former domestic partner who has received or qualified for any benefit or right based upon the existence of a domestic partnership and receipt of that benefit or enjoyment of that right has not otherwise terminated, shall give prompt notification to any third party who provides such benefit or right that the domestic partnership has terminated. Failure to provide notice to third parties shall not delay or prevent the termination of the domestic partnership.

Administration of Registry

The city maintains the domestic partnership registry and makes available declaration and termination forms at the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services. The department also makes available sample legal documents including durable power of attorney for medical decisions, and right of sepulcher designations domestic partnership may also want to consider.

Contact

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