

The Facts about California Domestic Partnership Dissolution

A California Registered Domestic Partnership is unique to our state. It is a legal domestic relationship available to same-sex adult couples and in some cases, opposite-sex couples.

According to California [Family Code Section 297-297.5](#), domestic partnership couples are afforded, "the same rights, protections, benefits, responsibilities, obligations, and duties," as marriages. They include – but are not limited to:

- Rightful inclusion in their partner's insurance policies (auto, life, homeowners etc..) through the [California Insurance Equality Act](#);
- The right to make health care decisions for each other in certain circumstances;
- Legal recognition that both partners are the parents of a child who is born into the partnership;
- "Spousal-type" rights involving wills, intestate succession, conservatorships and trusts, including the right to claim inheritance upon the death of their domestic partner;
- Community property rights and responsibilities which are commonly available to married spouses, including support (alimony) if the domestic partnership is dissolved;

Registering a California Domestic partnership is an easy, relatively straightforward process, and less-costly than partners who enter into a marriage. But even this comparatively simple procedure can sometimes be confusing. One reason is that some of them may only be registered locally, but not with the Secretary of State. This is an important point should dissolution of the domestic partnership become necessary. An easy way for registered domestic partners to know this is to [contact the Secretary of State](#).

California Domestic Partnership Dissolutions Look Simple, But Can Be Complicated

Other states, countries and the federal government don't even recognize California Registered Domestic Partnerships; even if in our state, they carry the same legal weight – and obligations – as a marriage. So a dissolution process involving the courts is necessary. And many registered domestic partners do not know that. This means that the following steps – which closely parallel that of a traditional divorce – must be taken.

- File a petition and summons with the Superior Court to begin the case;
- Complete a full disclosure of each partner's assets and debts;
- Resolve any partner-support issues;
- Resolve any property-division issues;
- Resolve any child-custody and child-support issues;
- Honor these resolutions in a Domestic Partnership Dissolution Settlement Agreement that is then filed with the court.

Generally, these steps appear to be relatively straightforward. But as we all know where the law is concerned, things are seldom simple. Since Registered Domestic Partnerships were recognized in California in 2008, a few landmark decisions have been handed down in the

courts that make Domestic Partnership Dissolution even harder to understand - much less legally abolish – without legal assistance. For even though entering into one is rather simple, many times – for a variety of reasons – ending a domestic partnership may not be so easy.

Without Legal Guidance, Domestic Partnerships Can End Messy, Just Like a Bad Divorce

Couples who were wise before entering their domestic partnership, created a pre-registration agreement together. They are just like prenuptial agreements and resolve contentious issues that can arise at the end of a relationship. Agreeing on these matters beforehand makes things much easier if a relationship sours. A suitable, mutually-agreeable “pre-reg” creates peace of mind, a sense of security for both partners, and even helps sustain their relationship during the bumps in the road that all couples face from time-to-time. The cost of creating a pre-registration agreement is often negligible when compared to the litigation costs that can arise from a messy split. If you are considering a domestic partnership, it is wise to visit with an experienced attorney about a pre-registration agreement. We will be happy to guide you through this process if you will [email us](#).

Because domestic partnerships only occur in California, our state’s Family Code has complete jurisdiction. Even if either or both partners happen to reside in another state at the time of dissolution, it must still be legally terminated in California. Other challenges unique to domestic partnerships must also be addressed. For example, considering the absence of federal recognition of domestic-partnerships, how can one partner legally deduct child support payments on their income tax? Other complicated issues concerning division of property, child custody, visitation and support, as well as alimony may apply, and must also be amicably resolved.

Domestic partners should consult a California family-law attorney with experience in managing Domestic Partnership Dissolution, due to the various tax and other complexities of this unique relationship. We will be happy to [explain your rights](#), your obligations as a domestic partner and the best way to dissolve it if that is your chosen course.

Dallas Parkland Hospital Community Blog Post – March, 2007

Family Planning at Parkland: Hospital in best position to continue program

If the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas is going to stop providing family planning services for low-income women, it's vital that the contract go to Parkland Memorial Hospital.

The two institutions share the same doctors, and several of the family planning clinics are housed in buildings with Parkland's community clinics. The family planning program, which counsels about 35,000 women a year, also fits Parkland's mission to improve public health, particularly among the poor.

That said, it's a shame that state legislators intent on restricting abortions keep targeting institutions that provide family planning – one aim of which is to prevent the need for abortions. That's how this situation came about. Legislators led by state Sen. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, made it law that a hospital or clinic cannot receive public money for family planning if it also performs elective abortions.

UT Southwestern does not perform elective abortions. Neither does Parkland: nor either of the other two hospitals affiliated with the medical school. But school officials are worried that the state still might penalize it if, for instance, doctors at hospitals in Waco and Wichita Falls, where UT students do their residencies, perform elective abortions as part of their private practices.

Across the state, most organizations that receive state-administered family planning funds signed a document agreeing to the abortion stipulation. UT Southwestern took a more cautious approach, choosing instead to drop the family planning program.

In a best-case scenario, Parkland will assume the responsibility and get the money. Hospital officials say they can take over the program with minimal disruptions and potentially use it as a basis for expanding their ob-gyn services for the poor women they serve. That sounds great.

But in a worst-case scenario, the contract will go to an unrelated institution, with considerable disruption of services. Or the money could dry up and the services disappear altogether. If that happened, UT Southwestern estimates that Parkland would deliver an additional 3,000 babies a year. No telling how many other women would choose abortion instead.

If that happens, the state will have cut off its nose to spite its face.

Publicom Pressroom Blog Post – May, 2007

Customer Experience, Retention and Brand Loyalty

Home-shoring is gaining momentum with businesses that rely on Customer Relationship Management (CRM) to maintain and deepen relationships with their customers. Several U.S. companies, including Texas-based Working Solutions, are on the cutting edge in providing service to an eager, forward thinking business community focused on continual cost containment and entrenching brand loyalty with their customers.

“CRM is driving this trend,” states Web Trends, an analytical research firm. “It costs from five to ten times more to acquire a new customer than it does to keep an existing one.” Customers are demanding to interact with agent professionals who share similar cultural similarities. This matching of similarities, companies are realizing improved CRM and brand loyalty.

A recent article in [CRM Buyer](#) Magazine cites the top issues that drive the Customer Relations industry in 2007. Prominently listed are “The voice of the customer will get louder” and “Customer loyalty (aka retention) will replace customer satisfaction as the primary driver in vendors' mindsets.”

“Brand loyalty and customer retention are the orders of the day,” says Tim Houlne, Working Solutions CEO. “Our client’s success is directly related to the education level, skills, and passion of our agent community.”

A recent study conducted by Framingham, Massachusetts research firm IDC on home shoring means accessing high-quality agents who are not limited by physical distance from the client. The agents’ home office is part of the call center.

Anticipating and managing call spikes are a constant challenge for the ‘bricks and mortar’ call centers. The remote agent model enables clients to schedule home-based remote agents in 30-minute increments. Now clients have an option to more effectively manage the usual up and down calling patterns of consumers. Typical solutions used to anticipate call spikes are either overlaying shifts (if the center runs multiple shifts), or adding additional staff to match.

"There is no doubt that home-shoring can result in attractive benefits for both the company and the agents themselves," says Stephen Loynd – analyst for IDC.