

Membership in AASP

The American Association for Single People is a nonprofit corporation with federal tax exempt status.

Our educational activities are designed to dispel myths and stereotypes about single people, domestic partners, and their families, to promote respect for the individual, and to protect the freedom of choice of people to form the family unit or living arrangement that best suits their personal needs.

Through litigation, AASP seeks to enforce existing constitutional and statutory protections, including the rights of privacy and equal protection of the law, as well as state and local laws against marital status and sex discrimination.

Whether you are single, divorced, separated, or widowed – and even if you are married – you can join AASP to support equal rights for everyone regardless of their marital status.

Join AASP. Get the satisfaction of knowing you are fighting for equal rights. Members receive a newsletter to keep you advised of AASP activities.

To become a member, each individual should complete this form and return it to us with a check made payable to AASP.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail address _____

[] basic membership fee \$ 10.00

[] additional donation* \$ _____

* may be tax-deductible

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

AASP

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AASP

American Association for Single People

Protecting the Rights of Single
People and Domestic Partners
With or Without Children



Visit Our Web Site
www.singlesRIGHTS.com

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Single People Are Under Attack

The rights of single people and the rights of domestic partners are being threatened throughout the United States. In some cases it is the rights of *all* single people under attack, while in other cases legislators or the radical religious right is targeting only a segment of the unmarried population.

Here are a just a few examples.

National. Radical right organizations are funding several lawsuits which have been filed to stop domestic partner benefits programs in Pima County (AZ), Broward County (FL), Chicago (IL), New York (NY), Santa Barbara (CA), Santa Clara (CA), Arlington (VA), and Boston (MA).

Western states. A federal appeals court ruled that “religious” landlords can ignore fair housing laws against marital status discrimination. This affects Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, California, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, and Hawaii.

Arizona. A pending bill would stop state funding to a foster home if a single foster parent is cohabiting with an unrelated adult. Another bill would prohibit cities and counties from giving benefits to domestic partners of their employees.

California. The state insurance commissioner has ruled that auto insurance companies can charge higher rates to unmarried drivers, regardless of their good driving record. The same type of discrimination is permitted in most other states.

District of Columbia. Although the city repealed criminal laws against homosexual conduct, the city still criminalizes consenting sex in private between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman. The same is true in Georgia and West Virginia.

Florida. In Monroe County, when a “religious” landlord challenged a fair housing law that protected unmarried couples, rather than defending the ordinance, the county repealed it.

Single People Need to Speak Out

Illinois. Although courts in most states recognize “palimony” rights of unmarried couples who separate, the Illinois Supreme Court refuses to enforce cohabitation agreements of these couples.

Georgia. The Insurance Commissioner has refused to allow health insurance companies to provide domestic partner coverage to employers.

Indiana. A bill is pending that would make it nearly impossible for any single person or any unmarried couple to qualify for adoption of a child.

Michigan. Judges in 18 states, including Michigan, refer to the offspring of unmarried parents as “illegitimate children.”

New Jersey. The legislatures in several states, including New Jersey, have officially labeled children born to unmarried parents as “bastards.”

New Mexico. This state makes it a crime for an unmarried man and woman to live together. Anti-cohabitation laws also criminalize such living arrangements in Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, Virginia, and West Virginia. Because of these laws, the IRS will not allow an unmarried taxpayer in these states to claim their partner as a dependent for income tax.

Rhode Island. Judges in Rhode Island have prohibit a divorced parent from having a live-in domestic partner or having an overnight guest of the opposite-sex if the children are present. Judges in other states have imposed similar restrictions.

Bell Atlantic and about 300 other private employers with domestic partner benefits programs, as well as a few cities such as Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Orleans, tell straight employees that they must get married in order to get equal benefits. These employers will not give unmarried straight workers domestic partner benefits, despite lawsuits organized by AASP and demands by the National Organization for Women that domestic partner benefits program should be gender neutral.

What You and Others Can Do

United we stand and divided we fall. There is strength in unity. The squeaky wheel gets oiled. These slogans may sound trite but they are true.

Single people have not been speaking out against these injustices. That is primarily because existing civil rights and human rights organizations have not made the rights of single people a priority. There are groups for women’s rights, gay rights, racial equality, seniors, and people with disabilities. But no national organization has made marital status discrimination and the rights of single people and domestic partners its top priority. Until now!

AASP fights for the rights of all single people and all domestic partners, with or without children. We are concerned about protecting your rights whether you are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual, whether you are young or old, with or without a disability, no matter what your race, ethnicity or gender is.

AASP files legal briefs in important test cases. We work with the media to change public opinion and public perceptions about single people and unmarried couples. We provide testimony when legislators need information about marital status discrimination or domestic partnership rights. And we publish a newsletter to keep you informed.

There are 80 million unmarried adults in the United States. Some live alone, while others live with a partner or roommate, and yet others live with a parent, a child or other a relative. AASP is fighting for the rights of the entire class of unmarried adults. We do not make the rights of one group of unmarried adults more important than the rights of any other group of single people.

What can *you* do?

Join AASP. We can not succeed without support from single people and those who care about them.

Speak out. Write letters to the editor of your newspaper, call radio talk shows, share AASP with your friends, tell your elected officials what you think.