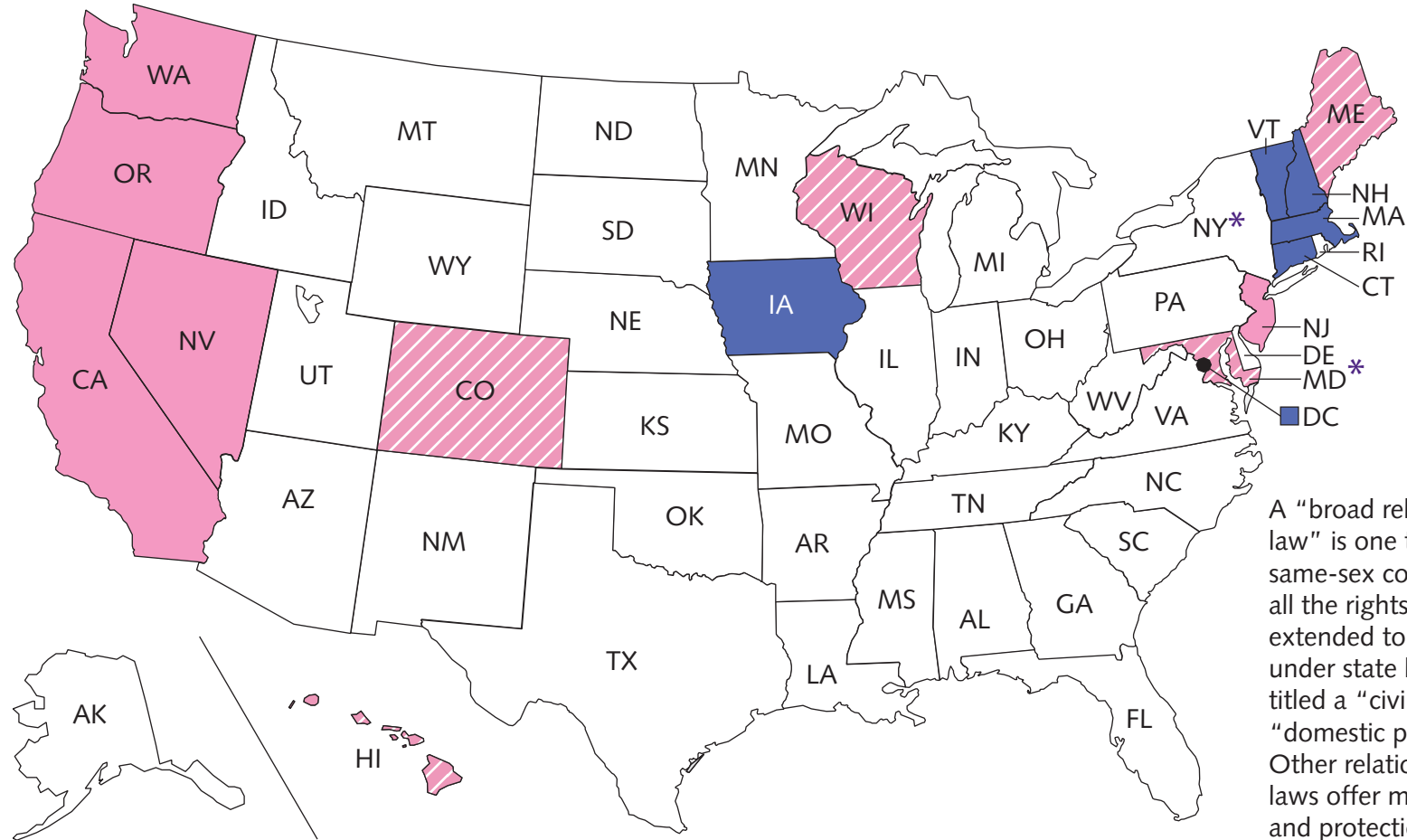


# Relationship Recognition for Same-Sex Couples in the U.S.

This map was last updated on: **March 17, 2010**



A "broad relationship recognition law" is one that extends to same-sex couples all or nearly all the rights and responsibilities extended to married couples under state law, whether titled a "civil union" or "domestic partnership" law. Other relationship recognition laws offer more limited rights and protections.

- States with full marriage equality**  
Massachusetts (2004); Connecticut (2008); Iowa (2009); Vermont (2009); New Hampshire (2009); District of Columbia (2010)
- States with broad relationship recognition laws**  
**civil unions:** Vermont (2000); New Jersey (2006); New Hampshire (2007)  
**domestic partnerships:** California (2005)<sup>2</sup>; Oregon (2007); Washington (2008); Nevada (2009)

- States with limited relationship recognition laws**  
**designated beneficiaries:** Colorado (2009)  
**domestic partnerships:** Maryland (2008)<sup>1</sup>; Wisconsin (2009); Maine (2004)  
**reciprocal beneficiaries:** Hawai'i (1997)
- States which recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states**  
New York (2008); Maryland (2010)

<sup>1</sup>In 2008, the Maryland Legislature established "domestic partnerships" granting minimal benefits but the state does not maintain a domestic partner registry. In 2010, the attorney general determined out-of-state marriages should also be recognized.

<sup>2</sup>California recognizes same-sex marriages legally registered inside or outside of CA prior to November 5, 2008 as marriages. CA recognizes same-sex marriages registered outside of CA on November 5, 2008 or after as domestic partnerships.