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## MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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### **Multnomah County readies for statewide domestic partnerships**

*County plans will accommodate increased service demand efficiently beginning Jan. 2*

When the Oregon Family Fairness Act takes effect January 2, same-sex couples throughout Oregon will be eligible to register under the new domestic partnership system created by the law. Multnomah County has been making preparations to ensure smooth and efficient business operations after the new law is implemented.

The county's Assessment and Taxation division has been in charge of planning and will process domestic partnerships in the same way as marriage licenses. Plans include creating orderly spaces for higher than average numbers of people in the building's lobby if needed, focusing staff resources in customer service areas and ensuring that all other county business will continue uninterrupted.

"We're going to be ready to start certifying domestic partnerships the moment our doors open on January 2," said Carol Ford, director of county management, which oversees marriage licenses and domestic partnerships. "Multnomah County has undertaken a thorough planning process and we expect everything to run very smoothly."

The new law allows same-sex couples, when one of whom is a resident of Oregon and both are over 18 years of age, to certify their partnerships in any county within the state and receive a range of civil and legal benefits previously unavailable to them.

The form, Declaration of Domestic Partnership, will be available at Multnomah County offices beginning on January 2 and is expected to be available at the Oregon Department of Human Services [Website](#) on January 1. Those who choose to print the form from the web must use legal-sized paper (8 1/2" x 14") or Multnomah County will be required to reject the form.

Unlike marriage licenses, the Declaration of Domestic Partnership requires no solemnization from a religious or legal official. Instead, forms require signature verifications and the seal of a Notary Public. Volunteer notaries will be on site at the Multnomah County offices for the first several business days after the new law takes effect. Both parties are required to present identification for the notarization.

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Like marriage licenses, the fee is \$60 to register a domestic partnership. Fees are payable in cash or certified funds only; no personal checks or credit/debit cards accepted. An ATM is available at the Multnomah Building (501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.) and business hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Due to limited parking in the area, use of public transportation is encouraged. The area is well served by transit and more information is available at <http://trimet.org/>.

For more information about Multnomah County's certification of domestic partnerships, please call 503-988-3027. A detailed list of frequently asked questions is [here](#).

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