

# Federal Benefits and the Same-Sex Partners of Federal Employees



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## FEDERAL BENEFITS AND THE SAME-SEX PARTNERS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 32 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.1in. The federal government provides a variety of benefits to its 4.4 million civilian and military employees and 4.7 million civilian and military retirees. Among these benefits are health insurance; enhanced dental and vision benefits; survivor benefits; retirement and disability benefits; family, medical, and emergency leave; and reimbursement of relocation costs. Pursuant to Title 5 U. S. C. Chapters 89, 89A, 89B, and other statutes, federal employees may extend these benefits to eligible spouses and children. In 1996, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA, P. L. 104-199; 1 U. S. C 7) to define and protect the institution of marriage. DOMA contains two provisions. The first provision allows all states, territories, possessions, and Indian tribes to refuse to recognize an act of any other jurisdiction that designates a relationship between individuals of the same sex as a marriage. The second provision prohibits federal recognition of these unions for purposes of federal enactments. Pursuant to DOMA, the same-sex partners of federal employees are not eligible to receive federal benefits that are extended to the spouses of federal employees. An estimated 34,000 federal employees are in same-sex relationships including state-recognized marriages, civil unions, or domestic partnerships. The Obama Administration has extended certain benefits to the same-sex partners of federal employees and annuitants and argued that it has done so within the parameters of existing federal statutes. On June 2, 2010, President Obama released a memorandum that extended specific benefits to the same-sex partners of federal employees, including coverage of travel, relocation, and subsistence payments. Some Members of Congress argue that same-sex partners of federal employees should have access to benefits afforded married, opposite-sex couples in order to attract...

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