

---

## Senate Bill-13-011. Colorado Civil Union Act

The bill creates the “Colorado Civil Union Act” (Act) to authorize any 2 unmarried adults, regardless of gender, to enter into a civil union. The criteria for a valid civil union are set forth in the bill.

This brief summary reflects only a few of the main points of the legislation. To see the actual language of the bill, go to <http://www.leg.state.co.us>. The bill takes effect May 1, 2013 except where otherwise noted.

The rights, benefits, protections, duties, obligations, responsibilities, and other incidents under law that are granted or imposed under the law to spouses apply in like manner to parties to a civil union, including the following:

- The ability to file a claim based on wrongful death, emotional distress, loss of consortium, dram shop, or other laws, whether common law or statutory, related to or dependent upon spousal status;
- Prohibitions against discrimination based upon spousal status;
- Survivor benefits under and inclusion in workers’ compensation laws;
- The right of a partner in a civil union to be treated as a family member or as a spouse under the “Colorado Employment Security Act” for purposes of unemployment benefits;
- The ability to insure a party to a civil union under group benefit plans for state employees;
- The ability to designate a party to a civil union as a beneficiary under the state public employees retirement system;

- Survivor benefits under local government firefighter and police pensions;
- Rights to visit a party in a civil union in a correctional facility, jail, or private contract prison or in a facility providing mental health treatment;
- The ability to file a complaint about the care or treatment of a party in a civil union in a nursing home;
- Eligibility for family leave benefits;
- Eligibility for public assistance benefits;
- A privilege from providing compelled testimony against a party in a civil union and evidentiary privileges for parties to a civil union;
- The right to claim a homestead exemption;
- The ability to protect exempt property from attachment, execution, or garnishment;
- Dependent coverage under life insurance for plans issued, delivered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014;
- Dependent coverage under health insurance policies for plans issued, delivered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014; and
- Other insurance policies that provide coverage relating to joint ownership of property for plans issued, delivered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2014.

For more information, contact CTSI at 303-861-0507.