

Re: OT – This just in...

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I appreciate your input in this regard, Barb. When you can see individual people who are affected by this whole thing rather than just seeing it as a social issue, I think it puts a whole different spin on things. It's easy to just blithely say that you (generic you) don't approve of legalization of same-sex marriages when you don't see real, ordinary, everyday people who are directly impacted by same.

Anne

Barbara Carlson wrote:

> *I think it varies from state to state. My daughter is gay, as I have said
> before. She and her partner registered in the State of New Jersey which
> does recognize Civil Unions. The only real benefit it gives them is that my
> daughter's employer (Rutgers University) does recognize and extend benefits
> to significant others, but they must register with the state, hence the
> Civil Union. The Civil Union does not FORCE an employer to recognize it.
> (My daughter's partner is a self-employed practicing psychologist, so needed
> the health insurance.) It also gives them benefits such as an inability for
> others to interfere with health issues, decisions, or visitations, etc.
> Prior to the "Civil Union" they had both made limited power of attorneys
> naming the other. A Civil Union does not, at this point, allow them to file
> joint income taxes, or share Social Security benefits, etc., but it does
> solve some problems for them as far as others being forced to view them as a
> legitimate couple. A true "marriage" as recognized presently would give
> them the same rights as any legally-married couple, and is why so many gays
> feel strongly about this. My daughter and her partner have a household,
> they own a home together, they share their lives just as a normal married
> couple would, and they feel they should be entitled to the same rights. I
> agree. There, I said my piece, and won't enter in to the rest of the
> argument. I'm too close to it to be objective.*
>
> Barb C.
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