

**Re: Changes in law affecting Washington State Registered Domestic Partnerships and Same-Sex Marriage (FAQs)**  
Week of June 30, 2014

**Background:**

New and existing Healthplanfinder customers will find information in these FAQs related to a Special Enrollment period available to same-sex Washington State registered domestic partnerships being converted to same-sex marriages.

On June 30, 2014, many, but not all, Washington State registered domestic partnerships will be converted to marriages. This is a result of a new law passed in 2012 which allows same-sex couples to marry and for certain domestic partnerships to convert to marriages.

Here are some basic facts about which partnerships are being converted and which are not:

- If you are a **same-sex couple and both of you are under 62**, you **will** be converted to marriage.
- **Only domestic partnerships registered with the Washington Secretary of State will be converted.** If you filed a domestic partnership in a city, county of another state or country, it will **NOT** be converted. You will know your domestic partnership is state registered if you received a card from the Secretary of State. You can view state registered domestic partnerships on the [Secretary of State website](#).
- If you are a **heterosexual or same-sex couple and one of you is 62 or over**, the law will **NOT** allow you to convert a state registered domestic partnership to marriage. You may not “opt in” or “allow” the state to convert you. The law specifically says that partnerships in which one person is 62 or over will not be converted. However, you may marry at any time of your choosing.

Additional information on the conversions is available from the Secretary of State at <http://www.sos.wa.gov/corps/domesticpartnerships/> or from the Department of Health at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/BirthDeathMarriageandDivorce/SameSexMarriageandDomesticPartnerships.aspx>

***As a new customer, how can I apply for free or low-cost health insurance through Washington Healthplanfinder if my Washington State same-sex registered domestic partnership is being converted to a marriage?***

Within 60 days of June 30, visit [www.wahealthplanfinder.org](http://www.wahealthplanfinder.org) and click “Apply Now” to complete an application. If you are eligible for Qualified Health Plan coverage, you will be prompted to provide additional information – Answer “yes” to the question about recently getting married on the Special Conditions Questionnaire. After providing the date of the event, you will then be able to select and pay for your Qualified Health Plan.

Final determination and confirmation of Special Enrollment will be provided after you submit documentation supporting any qualifying event. Washington Healthplanfinder will notify you after your documentation has been reviewed.

***As an existing customer, what do I need to do if my Washington State same-sex registered domestic partnership is being converted to a marriage?***

Within 60 days of this qualifying event, sign in to your Washington Healthplanfinder account to report the change that you’ve recently gotten married. You will need to update the tax-filing status and household relationship for you and spouse. Please note that these changes may result in a new eligibility status. If you are eligible for Qualified Health Plan coverage, you will then be able to select and pay for your Qualified Health Plan.

Final determination and confirmation of Special Enrollment will be provided after you submit documentation supporting any qualifying event. Washington Healthplanfinder will notify you after your documentation has been reviewed.

### **What is acceptable documentation to support Special Enrollment due to a Washington State same-sex registered domestic partnership being converted to a marriage?**

To qualify for Special Enrollment, customers must provide documents that prove they are eligible. Acceptable documents will indicate that the individual's state registered domestic partnership has been converted to a marriage.

On July 1, individuals can search the Secretary of State's State Registered Domestic Partnership Database by entering either partner's name or the registration number at <http://sos.wa.gov/corps/domesticpartnerships>. If your domestic partnership has been converted, the Registration Status will have been updated to "Marriage;" if your domestic partnership has not been converted, it will still say "Active." Individuals can print or download a copy of this page to support their Special Enrollment.

Also starting on July 1, individuals may order a marriage certificate from the Department of Health. Due to the potential high volume of requests for marriage certificates, there may be a delay in timely receipt of a marriage certificate which may further delay your enrollment.

### **How can I submit the necessary document(s)?**

Customers can scan and upload documents to their Washington Healthplanfinder account through the "Action Center" tab. A Broker or Navigator can also help. In the notes section of the document upload, describe that it is proof of the conversion of your Washington State registered domestic partnership to marriage.

#### ***Here are some tips about uploading documents:***

- Maximum size of file is 2MB
- Recommended file format is PDF or GIF
- Documents don't need to be high resolution, but must be legible

Alternatively, individuals can fax them to (360) 841-7620, scan and email them to [Documents@wahbexchange.org](mailto:Documents@wahbexchange.org), or mail them to Washington Healthplanfinder, P.O. Box 946 Olympia, WA 98507. *Please note that verification by Washington Healthplanfinder may be delayed if documents are submitted by fax, email, or mail.*

**You have 60 days to submit documentation to Washington Healthplanfinder from the date that you reported a change to Washington Healthplanfinder.**