

Common-Law Marriage

A person may say that they are in a common law marriage. This chart shows states which permit common law marriages. Generally, a common law marriage is one where no formal ceremony has occurred and no state-issued marriage license has been received, but two persons:

- 1) presently agree to be married; and
- 2) "hold themselves out" (tell people) as being married.

State	Common-law Marriage?	State	Common-law Marriage?	State	Common-law Marriage?
Alabama	Yes	Louisiana	No	Ohio	Before Oct. 10, 1991
Alaska	No	Maine	No	Oklahoma	Before Nov. 1, 1998
Arizona	No	Maryland	No	Oregon	No
California	No	Massachusetts	No	Pennsylvania	Before Jan. 1, 2005
Colorado	Yes	Michigan	No	Puerto Rico	No
Connecticut	No	Minnesota	No	Rhode Island	Yes
Delaware	No	Mississippi	No	South Carolina	Yes
DC	Yes	Missouri	No	South Dakota	No
Florida	No	Montana	Yes	Tennessee	No
Georgia	Before Jan. 1, 1997	Nebraska	No	Texas	Yes
Hawaii	No	Nevada	No	Utah	Yes
Idaho	Before Jan. 1, 1996	New Hampshire	No	Vermont	No
Illinois	No	New Jersey	No	Virginia	No
Indiana	No	New Mexico	No	Washington	No
Iowa	Yes	New York	No	West Virginia	No
Kansas	Yes	North Carolina	No	Wisconsin	No
Kentucky	No	North Dakota	No	Wyoming	No