

The Once and Future Queer Relationship

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Queer Relationship Structures

- **Pre- Obergefell**
 - Contractual
 - Domestic Partnership
 - Civil Unions
- **Present Day**
 - Marriage
 - Consensual Non-monogamy (CNM)

CNM and the Sommerville Approach

- **i) *** a domestic partnership legally recognized as such in another jurisdiction or (ii) the entity formed by people who meet the following criteria and jointly file a registration statement proclaiming that:**
 - They are in a relationship of mutual support, caring, and commitment and intend to remain in such a relationship; and
 - (1)They are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and
 - (2)They are competent to contract; and
 - (3)They consider themselves to be a family.

Legal Requirements

- **Registration**

- Domestic Partner Registration Form

- Name and Birthdate of each partner
 - Signed by all partners together, in person
 - If one partner is married or in another domestic partnership, must include notarized statement of consent from spouse or other domestic partners

- **Dissolution**

- Death of partner is an automatic withdrawal from the domestic partnership
 - Withdrawal Statement
 - Termination Statement

Benefits

Partners

- Visitation
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Access to children's records

Children

- Material
- Emotion
- Financial