

AFTER DOMA

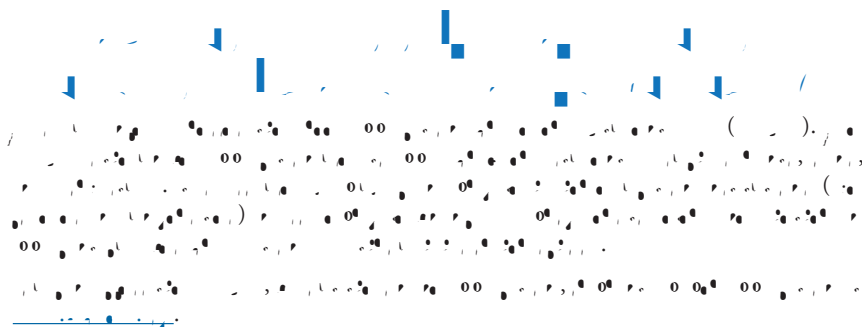
WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

The Supreme Court victory in *United States v. Windsor* striking down the discriminatory federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) affirms that all loving and committed couples who are married deserve equal legal respect and treatment from the federal government. The demise of DOMA marks a turning point in how the United States government treats the relationships of married same-sex couples for federal programs that are linked to being married. At the same time, a turning point is part of a longer journey, not the end of the road. There is much work ahead before same-sex couples living across the nation can enjoy all the same protections as their different-sex counterparts.

Keep in Mind:

- *United States v. Windsor* is a landmark Supreme Court decision that strikes down the discriminatory federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). DOMA was a federal law that defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman for all purposes of federal law. The Supreme Court ruled that DOMA is unconstitutional because it violates the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.
- The decision means that the federal government must now recognize same-sex marriages that are legally performed in states that allow them. This means that same-sex couples who are married in their state will now be recognized as married for all purposes of federal law, including federal benefits, taxes, and estate planning.
- The decision also means that the federal government can no longer discriminate against same-sex couples in federal programs that are linked to being married. This includes federal benefits, taxes, and estate planning.
- The decision is a landmark victory for the LGBTQ+ community and for the principle of equal treatment under the law. It is a significant step towards achieving full equality for all Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- While the decision is a landmark victory, it is not the end of the journey. There is still much work to be done to ensure that all Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, have equal access to the same rights and protections as their different-sex counterparts.
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