

CIVIL UNION

Vermont's Civil Union law:

Vermont's Civil Union law was passed by the Vermont Legislature in 1999 and became law in April of 2000.

Forming a Civil Union:

You must apply to a Town Clerk for a civil union license. *All of the forms necessary for the civil union can be found at the Town Clerk's Office, not the Court.*

Law applying to Civil Union:

The law of domestic relations, including annulment, separation, divorce, child custody and support, and property division and maintenance, shall apply to a civil union.

If a child is born to one of the parties in a civil union, the rights of the other party towards the child shall be the same as in a civil marriage.

Dissolution of a Civil Union:

The Vermont Family Court has jurisdiction over all proceedings relating to dissolution of civil unions. It follows the same procedures as dissolving a civil marriage (divorce), and is subject to the same rights and obligations, including a Vermont residency requirement of 12 months before a dissolution is granted.

You will need to address division of your property and debts. If you have children you will need to decide parental rights and responsibilities (custody), parent-child contact (visitation) and arrange for child support.

The family court has forms and other information pamphlets that will give you more information for filing for dissolution of your civil union.

For further explanation of your rights and responsibilities, you are urged to contact an Attorney.

**You can obtain helpful information, as well as court forms at:
www.VermontJudiciary.org.**

**For more information on history and requirements of civil union:
[www. http://www.sec.state.vt.us/otherprg/civilunions/civilunions.html](http://www.sec.state.vt.us/otherprg/civilunions/civilunions.html)**