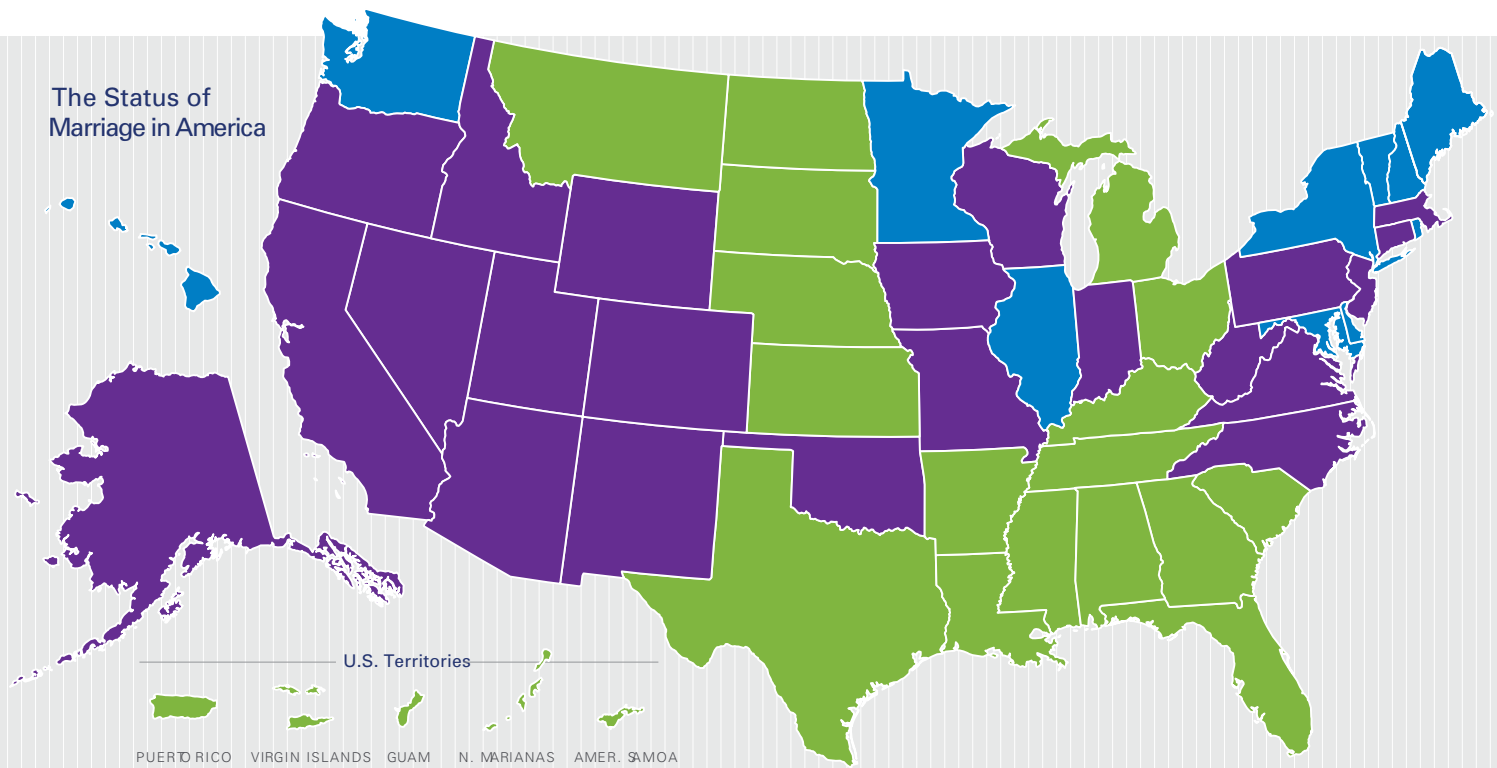


The State of Marriage

NOVEMBER 6, 2014

On Monday, October 06, 2014 the U.S. Supreme Court surprised most experts by refusing to hear any of the 5 cases where judges had overturned state marriage amendments. As a result, 5 states were immediately forced to issue same-sex marriage licenses and over the next month judicial decisions forced same-sex marriage on another 10 states.

What are these State Marriage Amendments? They are amendments to State Constitutions, voted on - and passed by - the citizens of a state, that supplement the state's existing marriage law and ensure that the definition of marriage remains the union of a husband and wife.



- States where marriage is defined as a lifelong union between a man and woman as husband and wife.
- States where legislatures, or citizens, created same-sex marriage and now define marriage as any combination of two adults.
- States where courts created same-sex marriage and now define marriage as any combination of two adults.

The Situation:

- Advocates of same-sex marriage filed lawsuits in many states trying to force judges to overrule what the citizens had decided concerning marriage policy in their state.
- Stunning rulings came against marriage amendments from federal judges in many states including Utah, Virginia, and Oklahoma. The courts in each state threw out the marriage policy decided on by the people. There were high expectations, from both sides, for the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decisions made in one, or all, of those cases – two of which ADF was directly litigating.
- Also in October and November, rulings came against the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Marriage (*noun*) ~~the lifelong union of a man and woman as husband and wife~~
a combination of any two consenting adults

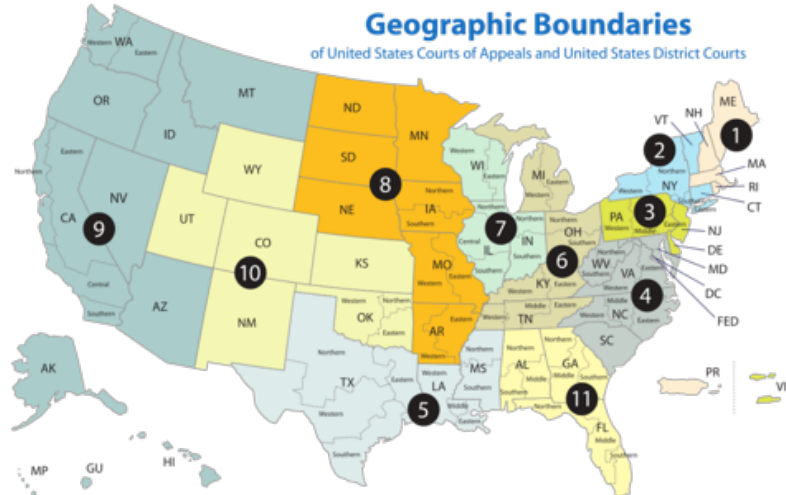
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The Latest:

With the U.S. Supreme Court declining to hear the decisions of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th, 7th, and 10th Circuits, advocates of same-sex marriage will no doubt try to apply those decisions to all of the states within those circuits.

On November 6, 2014 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit upheld 4 states' constitutional amendments affirming marriage as a union of one man and one woman.



Your Key Takeaways:

- 1. Marriage is Beautiful:** Marriage is a lifelong union between husband and wife. Humanity has always been, and will always be, composed of men and women. That can't change, and that's why the timeless institution of marriage shouldn't be changed by court mandate. Marriage celebrates humanity's diversity.
- 2. This is About More than Just the Current Push for Same-Sex Marriage:** Redefining marriage policy is about more than just creating same-sex marriage – it is about changing the role and nature of marriage in our society. Society has always had many non-traditional families involving wonderful people, but we've never called them marriages.
- 3. HISTORY And Justice Will Demand That Marriage Ultimately Win.** For a time, different states in our own country understood marriage in different ways, but ultimately our nation restored marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Even if it takes another generation to rediscover marriage's true purpose and beauty in society, marriage will win.



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Marriage (*noun*) the lifelong union of a man and woman as husband and ~~wife~~
wives

Polygamists tried to redefine marriage in the 1800's, but were turned back by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Murphy v. Ramsey*.

"For, certainly, no legislation can be supposed more wholesome and necessary... than that which seeks to establish it on the basis of the idea of the family, as consisting in and springing from the union for life of one man and one woman in the holy estate of matrimony; the sure foundation that all that is stable and noble in our civilization; the best guaranty of... social and political improvement."

- *Murphy v. Ramsey, 1885*

Marriage (*noun*) the lifelong union of a man and woman as husband and wife
white white

Segregationists across the country tried to redefine marriage in 1900's through racially-restrictive marriage laws, but the U.S. Supreme Court returned marriage to its original and natural state in *Loving v. Virginia*.

"Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival."

- *Loving v. Virginia, 1967*

Conclusion:

Cases challenging marriage laws are ongoing in federal courts in the 1st, 5th, 8th, and 11th circuits. ADF will continue to defend marriage policy in the courts, and we will continue to promote and advance a healthy culture of marriage in all areas of our society.

