

Planning a wedding is supposed to be an exciting time. When Jen and I found Liberty Ridge Farm's website, we fell in love. We knew it would be the perfect place for our wedding and were so excited to take the next steps. And then we called them. It is difficult to describe how heartbreaking it is when someone says to you that, because you are marrying someone of the same sex, you cannot have the options that your heterosexual counterparts are allowed. We had our hearts set on this beautiful venue and thought that it would be a simple matter of planning a visit to finalize a date. That simple matter has turned into three years of our lives because a business refused to treat us the same way they would treat a heterosexual couple planning their big day. This was especially jarring in the wake of New York declaring Marriage Equality so recently. No one deserves to be discriminated against. To be treated as a second-class citizen when planning one of the happiest days of your life has the kind of negative impact that can resound throughout the entire process. It had never occurred to us that a business would decline our patronage, but after interacting with Liberty Ridge Farm, we worried about it with every element we planned and every vendor we spoke to.

People ask: Why did we continue to pursue this? After three years, the answer is still the same. We will do whatever we can to make sure that no other couple has to deal with the same feelings of sadness and anxiety that we wrestled with from the moment we realized that, though the laws have changed, same-sex couples are far from being treated as equal.