

# UNITED STATES v. WINDSOR

## What the Supreme Court's Decision Means for New York Couples



### Victory for Marriage!

Today, the Supreme Court decided in *United States v. Windsor* that section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act ("DOMA") is unconstitutional because it violates the equal protection and due process principles of the Constitution. Once the decision takes effect, married same-sex couples residing in New York can enjoy the benefits, privileges and obligations of a marriage under federal law. These benefits include: filing joint federal taxes, sponsoring a spouse for immigration benefits, and receiving Social Security, federal pensions and veterans' benefits.

The decision does not change whether other states have to recognize the validity of a New York marriage of a same-sex couple. We recommend that you contact a lawyer for more information if you are planning on moving out of state.

Look out for an updated Know Your Rights: Frequently Asked Questions About New York's Marriage Equality Act pamphlet from the NYCLU. If you have any questions, call NYCLU at (212) 607-3300 or e-mail [lgbt@nyclu.org](mailto:lgbt@nyclu.org).

Date: June 26, 2013

**LEARN MORE:** [www.nyclu.org/windsor](http://www.nyclu.org/windsor)





Thea Spyer, left, and Edie Windsor, right.

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