

## Timeline of Same-Sex Marriage – Vocab

same-sex marriage – marriage between two people of the same sex

marriage license – a legal document that is necessary to marry

Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) – an act passed in 1996 that stated that neither states nor the federal government have to recognize same-sex marriages performed in a state where they are legal

civil union – a partnership that is legally recognized and carries many of the same benefits as a marriage

constitutional amendment – a change or addition to the Constitution

appeal – to ask a court or legal power to reverse a decision made by a “lower” court

marriage benefits – institutional benefits that come from legal recognition of a marriage. These exist on a state and federal level and can include hospital visitation rights, tax benefits, insurance benefits, immigration protections, adoption rights and others.