

# Our work.

ACLU brought our first LGBT rights case in 1936 and founded the LGBT Project in 1986. Today, ACLU champions more LGBT cases and advocacy initiatives nationally than any other national organization.

In 2014, the ACLU of Missouri won an historic case, *Barrier v. Vasterling*, which obligated Missouri to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples who were legally wed outside the state. This paved the way for the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs to grant spousal benefits to Missouri's married same-sex couples. Missouri's case provided critical case law for an ACLU National case: *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the landmark United States Supreme Court case in which the court held the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples.

ACLU of Missouri's newest initiative, The Transgender Education and Advocacy Program (TEAP), seeks to raise awareness about the challenges faced by the transgender community and challenge barriers to equality in our state. We will lift up transgender leadership and build a network of organizers committed to making Missouri a more welcoming, inclusive place to live for everyone.



**ACLU**  
Missouri

If you feel your rights have been violated,  
contact ACLU of Missouri

**ACLU Missouri**

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**LGBTQ+?**

**Know Your Rights.**

Protecting the rights of the  
LGBT Community In Missouri



# Your rights.

## Spousal & Family Rights

- Your marriage is legally recognized by the state of Missouri.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration recognize spousal benefits for same-sex marriages.
- Private employers may still provide domestic partners with any benefits they wish.
- Missouri has no laws limiting the rights of LGBT individuals to adopt.

## Students' Rights

- Schools cannot "out" students without permission.
- Students who choose to be out are constitutionally protected to do so.
- Students may bring a same-sex date to prom or dress in the manner that they feel represents them.
- Students are able to form gay-straight alliances if other non-curricular clubs are allowed.
- Students have a right to feel safe at school and are protected against harassment.

## Civil Rights

- Crimes that are knowingly motivated by sexual orientation are subject to enhanced penalties.
- Missouri's hate crimes law explicitly includes gender identity-motivated crimes under its broad definition of sexual orientation.

# Together, we fight.

While there has been progress toward equality in Missouri, the legal patchwork of protections leaves room for uncertainty.

Missouri does not offer explicit protections against discrimination for gender identity or sexual orientation in employment, housing, or public accommodation.

Missouri allows individuals to change their gender markers and legal names on driver's licenses and birth certificates but the processes are each separate, convoluted, and needlessly complex.

ACLU of Missouri will continue to seek anti-discrimination protections for LGBT individuals and communities across our state and we will work to defeat legislation that hinders equality.

# What you can do right now.

- Know your rights.
- Legally safe-guard your relationships and assets by having an attorney draft estate planning documents.
- Work to elect local and national politicians who protect LGBT rights.
- Support organizations and community groups creating safe places and lifting up LGBT voices.
- Join ACLU of Missouri, help us fight for equality in our state.

Want to help make Missouri a state that celebrates all people?  
**Join us.**



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