Guardian and Conservatorship
You are entitled to be represented by a lawyer in guardianship (care of your person) or conservatorship (care of your financial matters) cases. If you cannot afford one, Maine should provide one for you.

You have a right to notice of any guardianship or conservatorship proceedings involving yourself. Even if you are under guardianship, you still have freedom of religion and the right to maintain your religious practice.

Domestic Partnership
Unmarried same-sex and different-sex couples may join in a registered domestic partnership by completing form VS-70, “Declaration of Domestic Partnership” and paying the $50 fee (see reverse for link to more information). That law provides inheritance, funeral, guardianship/conservatorship and property protections under State law, and access to certain spousal Social Security benefits under federal law.

Domestic partners will have all of the rights of spouses under the State Probate Code as of January 1, 2019, making it easier to care for each other at difficult times.

Social Security Benefits
The Social Security Administration (SSA) now recognizes marriages of same-sex couples for Social Security benefits, Medicare entitlement, and eligibility and payment amounts for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. In Maine, registered domestic partners are entitled to the same benefits as spouses (see reverse for link to more information).

Health Care Proxy
You can designate who you want to make your financial decisions in case you are unable to make them. This is called a healthcare proxy.

Power of Attorney
You can designate who you want to make your financial decisions in case you are unable to make them. This is called a power of attorney.

Safety & Respect
You have the right to be protected from discrimination on the basis of LGBTQ status in your housing and in public accommodations such as medical offices. You have the right to use restrooms and other gender-differentiated facilities consistent with your gender identity.

Self-Identification
You have the right to have your identity—including your LGBTQ identity—respected.
Legal Services for the Elderly  
www.mainelse.org  
Help line: 1-800-750-5353

Spectrum Generations  
www.spectrumgenerations.org

Elder Abuse Institute of Maine  
www.eaime.org

Maine Aging and Disability Resource Centers  

SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders)  
www.sagemaine.org  
National hotline: 1-888-234-SAGE (7243)

Maine Domestic Partnership Registration Instructions  
www.bit.ly/2yhtfSe

Social Security Guide for Same Sex Couples  
www.ssa.gov/people/same-sexcouples

Medicare Registration (Sign up before age 65 to avoid a penalty premium)  
www.bit.ly/2gcfUIs

GLAD Resources

Know Your Rights—Maine  
www.glad.org/locations/maine

Social Security Benefits After DOMA  
www.bit.ly/2Hlx2Tm

Legal Planning for Same Sex Couples  

GLAD Answers  
www.GLADAnswers.org

This document, published June 16th, 2018, provides general information only and should not be taken as legal advice. If you have questions, need more information, or need help with a problem you are facing, please contact us at www.GLADAnswers.org or 800-455-GLAD.