
PRESS RELEASE

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Clarkdale Registers First Civil Union

Clarkdale, AZ (December 19, 2013) – In November, Clarkdale became the 5th municipality in the State of Arizona to adopt a Civil Union Code when their Town Council voted unanimously on the subject. The ordinance went into effect on December 12, 2013 and Clarkdale Town Clerk Kathy Bainbridge received an application and issued Clarkdale's first Civil Union Registration on December 18, 2013.

The Town's first registered Civil Union couple is quite familiar with Clarkdale's procedures for Civil Unions. Clarkdale Mayor Doug Von Gausig and his partner, Rebecca O'Banion, have lived in their Clarkdale home together for 12 years. At the time the ordinance was adopted, Mayor Von Gausig stated, "Clarkdale is proud to join the growing list of communities that recognize that all people should be treated equally."

Following the issuance of their Civil Union Certificate, Ms. O'Banion commented, "A loving commitment is personal and can take many forms. Clarkdale's civil union code fills in the missing legal piece in our personal life commitment to each other." Mayor Von Gausig added, "We have enjoyed a loving relationship for more than 20 years, and we're thrilled that now we can enjoy some of the important rights formerly reserved for those who have chosen to marry. Clarkdale's Civil Union process is a wonderful way to ensure our rights as a couple are protected and honored"

Sponsored by Clarkdale Town Council Member Curt Bohall, the purpose and intent of Clarkdale's Civil Union ordinance reads as follows: "The Town of Clarkdale supports the right of every person to enter into a lasting and meaningful personal relationship with the partner of his or her choice, regardless of the gender or sexual orientation of the parties to that relationship. For that purpose, the Town of Clarkdale seeks to respect, support, and facilitate the rights of all persons to enter into contractual relationships and to designate agents, to the full extent permitted by the law, to manage their property, to make important life decisions, and otherwise to provide and care for loved ones within a meaningful and lasting personal relationship."

Couples who are interested in registering a Civil Union in Clarkdale will find the forms at the Town Clerk's office or on the Town's website (www.clarkdale.az.gov). The

Clarkdale Town Clerk's office is located at 39 N. Ninth Street in Clarkdale, and is open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 am - 5:30pm and Fridays from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.