

Same sex marriage; Chatham County Probate Court

Robert

Attorney Christie Baer and I met with the Probate Court Clerk yesterday to discuss the Court's readiness to respond to what we hope will be a favorable decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, the same sex marriage case pending before the Supreme Court. We had contacted the court last week to request a conversation. In the interim, the Clerk revised the forms individuals must complete in order to obtain a marriage license, so that they no longer reflect a presumption that couples registering to marry are different-sex.

The position of the Chatham County Probate Court, as reflected in our conversations with Judge Lewis and the Chief Clerk, is that, should Obergefell deem same sex marriages legal, the Court and its personnel intend to follow and implement the law. They will begin issuing marriage licenses to same sex couples. The Clerk indicated that the Court would consider extending hours of operation, should there be an commensurate demand for marriage licenses.

Attorney Baer has drafted the below notice which we have recommended to the Probate Court as an appropriate notice for their website. Please disseminate this to your friends and other contacts and ask them to do the same.

As a result of the United States Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, the Chatham County Probate Court will immediately begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

All applicants for marriage licenses, whether same-sex or opposite-sex, must meet the same eligibility requirements and comply with the same process for obtaining a marriage license.
