December 21, 2004

TO: LOCAL REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
CHIEF DEPUTY REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
COUNTY RECORDERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA DOMESTIC PARTNER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
ACT OF 2003-EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2005

Introduction

This All County Letter (ACL) provides information on the California
Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003

Effective Date

This new law becomes effective January 1, 2005.

Statutes of 2003, chapter 421 (A.B. 205) and subsequent amendments (Statutes of 2004, chapter 947 (A.B. 2580)) extend most rights and duties of marriage granted under state law to persons registered as domestic partners on and after January 1, 2005.
The role of hospitals and local registrars

The attached letter to General Acute Care Hospitals and Alternative Birthing Centers provides guidance on how the new law affects the birth registration process. Please refer to the letter for a description of the role of hospitals in implementing the law, as well as a list of the new statutory requirements. Local registrars should ensure that hospitals have a copy of the new requirements and that they are reflected appropriately on birth certificates registered at the local level. Local Registrars must also follow this process when completing certificates and registering out-of-hospital births.

Revised Birth and Death Handbook

Birth and Death Registration Handbook amendments will be issued shortly.

AVSS Electronic System Reminder

A reminder of this legislation will be displayed when hospitals log onto AVSS.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact your Policy/County Analyst.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Michael L. Rodrian
State Registrar

Enclosure