



# Celebrating Pride Month with love and unity.

June is Pride Month, a time to celebrate love in all its forms. As a couples-based immigration law firm, we understand the unique challenges LGBTQ+ couples face in navigating the U.S. immigration process. This guide is designed to answer commonly asked questions and provide you with the essential information you and your significant other need as you begin your journey.

# **Top LGBTQ+ Immigration FAQs**

# Can I sponsor my same-sex spouse for a green card?

Yes! Since the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015, same-sex marriage has been recognized nationwide, allowing LGBTQ+ couples the same immigration benefits as heterosexual couples.

### Is the immigration process different for LGBTQ+ couples?

From the U.S. legal perspective, the immigration process is technically identical for all legally married couples. However, in practice, immigration cases are often complex due to the impact of foreign laws and social discrimination in some parts of the world.

Many LGBTQ+ couples need a more nuanced legal strategy in order to work around barriers such as being unable to legally wed in the immigrant's home country. We have extensive experience successfully overcoming these hurdles so love prevails.





### Is it a problem if I am transitioning during my immigration process?

With all highly personal decisions, including transitioning, we always recommend our clients live their lives on their own best timing rather than allowing the immigration process to dictate their decisions.

Although government systems and immigration forms are not yet fully optimized to handle this situation, we have found excellent ways to make sure our clients win their cases and end up with immigration documents that reflect their true identity.

### We haven't told disapproving family members about our marriage. Is that a problem?

Historically, immigration officers have considered close family members' knowledge of a marriage to be important evidence that the relationship is legitimate rather than simply a marriage of convenience for a green card. However, technically, public disclosure or disclosure to family members is not a legal requirement. The legal standard for a "bona fide" marriage is whether or not both partners truly intend to join their lives together.

We can help you present effective evidence of your relationship in a way that proves your legitimacy while still taking into account any difficult family or community dynamics, and help you respond to any inquiries about this from immigration officers.





# What is the best path? How long will the process take? What documents do we need?

All couples have questions about the immigration process generally and their situation specifically. For personalized assistance, our team at Immigration for Couples is here to help you.

**Contact Us Today!** 

### **Our Commitment to You**

At Immigration for Couples, we are dedicated to helping LGBTQ+ couples navigate the complexities of U.S. immigration law with compassion, expertise, and personalized attention. We understand the unique challenges you face and are committed to bringing you and your partner together in the U.S. with the least stress possible.

# **Happy Pride Month!**



