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## What happens if I travel from Illinois to another state that doesn't recognize same-sex marriages?

Because Section 2 of DOMA is still effective, all same-sex couples must continue to take certain precautions to protect themselves in other states. First, same-sex spouses should carry powers of attorney for health care when traveling to ensure that the spouses can continue making health care decisions for one another in states that are hostile to their relationship. Second, same-sex parents who are not the birth parent must obtain adoptions for their children to be recognized as a parent in all 50 states. Birth certificates are not enough; adoption orders are the only documents showing parentage that are entitled to full faith and credit.

If you actually move to another state that doesn't recognize your marriage, you may lose some federal benefits for reasons that are beyond the scope of this FAQ.

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