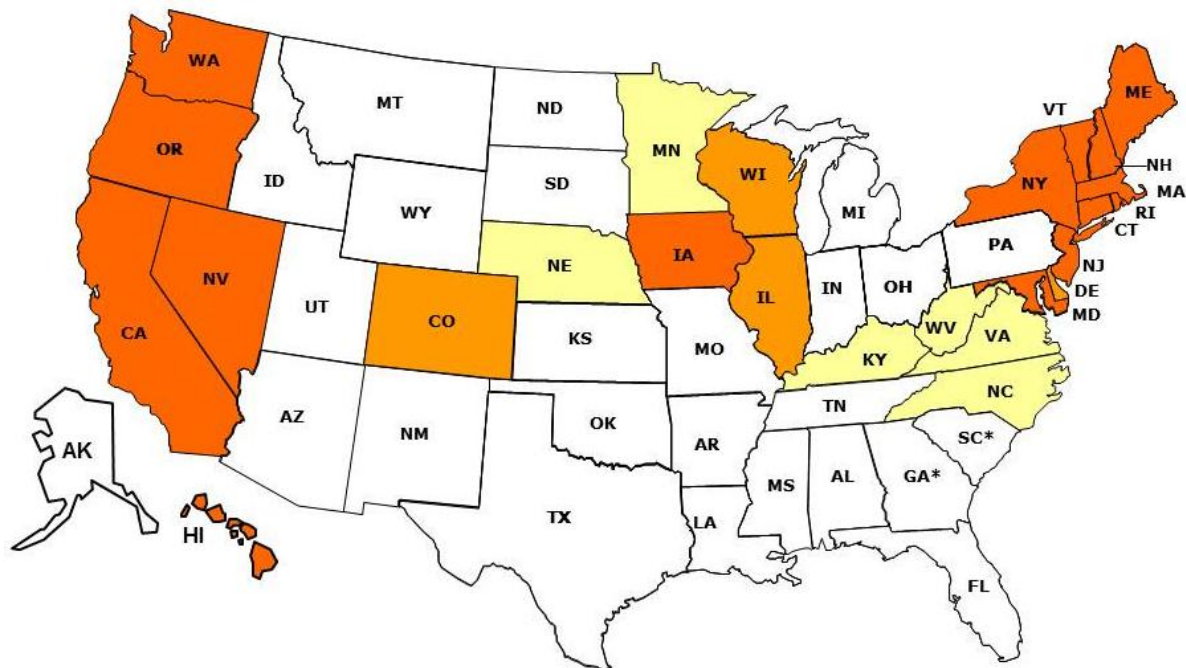





1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20036  
*web:* www.hrc.org  
*phone:* 202/628-4160  
*fax:* 202/347-5323


## Hospital Visitation Laws


**New Federal Requirements:** Federal regulations require hospitals participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs to adopt written policies and procedures regarding patients' visitation rights, including a prohibition on discrimination in visitation based on sexual orientation and gender identity (January 18, 2011).



Hospital visitation laws can be in the form of relationship recognition laws (marriage, civil unions, domestic partnerships) or separate visitation statutes.

 States extending equal hospital visitation rights to same-sex spouses or partners through marriage equality or statewide relationship recognition. (15 states and D.C.)  
*California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.*

 States extending equal hospital visitation rights to same-sex spouses or partners through specific provisions as part of a limited relationship recognition statute. (5 states)  
*Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland and Wisconsin.*

 States extend hospital visitation rights through a designated visitor statute: (6 states)  
*Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.*

\* **Healthcare Agent Statute:** Two states extend hospital visitation rights to a designated healthcare agent by statute: *Georgia and South Carolina*