

INTERPRETIVE MEMO

3SVT Rule Interpretation

Procedure Interpretation

This interpretive memo remains effective statewide until it is specifically superseded—either by a subsequent interpretive memo or by a contradictory rule with a later date.

Reference 273.1a2 Date of this Memo 8/4/15 Page 1 of 1

This Memo: is New Replaces one dated 7/26/2014

Household Composition: Same Sex Spouses

QUESTION: How does the Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* change 3SVT household composition rules?

ANSWER: As of June 26, 2015, there is a slight change in how we determine mandatory household members for 3SVT. Same sex spouses living together must be included in the same 3SVT household. This is now applicable to any married couple, regardless of the state in which they were married.

QUESTION: How do we treat married same sex couples?

ANSWER: Spouses who live together are mandatory members of the 3SVT household.

QUESTION: What verification is required to document any marriage?

ANSWER: None. Household composition is only subject to verification if questionable.

QUESTION: Does this change how we treat civil union couples?

ANSWER: No. Civil union designation from any state, including Vermont, does not qualify as married for 3SVT. Two individuals living together, who have entered into a civil union, are not mandatory members of the same 3SVT household. However, civil union partners that purchase and prepare food together may be considered members of the same 3SVT household.

*YD
Pnd*