



JAMES E. MCGREEVEY  
Governor

*State of New Jersey*  
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PETER C. HARVEY  
Attorney General

March 10, 2004

William G. Dressel, Jr.  
Executive Director  
New Jersey State League of Municipalities  
407 West State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08618

Re: Same-Sex Marriages

Dear Mr. Dressel:

Enclosed is a March 9, 2004 letter to Joseph Komosinski, the State Registrar of Vital Statistics, advising him that New Jersey law does not permit same-sex couples to enter into marriage. This conclusion is based both on New Jersey's marriage statutes, N.J.S.A. 37:1-1, et seq., and controlling court decisions interpreting those statutes as set forth in detail in the March 9, 2004 letter. Thus, local registrars may not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, individuals authorized to solemnize marriages in New Jersey are not authorized to solemnize marriages of same-sex couples, and the State Registrar is not authorized to accept for filing licenses and certificates of marriage issued to same-sex couples.

Please feel free to distribute the enclosed letter to the membership of your organization.

Sincerely yours,

PETER C. HARVEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick DeAlmeida".

Patrick DeAlmeida  
Deputy Attorney General

