# Hiroshima City Partnership Oaths



#### **Outline and Intent**

When one or both partners are of a sexual minority, a couple may submit a written oath to the City of Hiroshima proclaiming that they acknowledge each other as life partners and that they will support one another in their daily lives. As proof of this, the City of Hiroshima will issue Partnership Oath Certificates and Partnership Oath Cards.

While this system has no legal force, the City of Hiroshima hopes that recognition of these relationships by local government will increase social awareness regarding sexual minorities and help create a society where sexual minorities can live with peace of mind.

#### Criteria

Couples that swear an oath to the Mayor of Hiroshima and meet the following criteria will be presented with Certificates and Cards.

- ☐ One or both have an address inside city limits
- Both are legal adults
- Neither is married (including common-law marriage)
- Neither has a Partnership Oath with anyone else
- They are not close relatives\*

\*Lineal relatives (a direct ancestor and descendent) by blood, collateral relatives (not lineal) by blood within the third degree of kinship, or lineal relatives by marriage. Excludes people related by adoption.





**† Card** (Some include a pattern)

	パ	ートナーシ	ップ宣誓書	受領証
		傑		
(	年一月	日生 )	(	年 月 日生)
住所			住所	
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↑ Certificate (A4 size)

#### **Inquiries**

Human Rights Education Division

Human Rights Education Department, Citizens Affairs Bureau, The City of Hiroshima
1-6-34 Kokutaiji-machi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima
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## Request to businesses and organizations

Same-sex marriage does not exist in Japanese civil law, nor can same-sex couples be recognized as having common-law marriages. Thus, couples encounter a wide range of problems, including not being recognized as next-of-kin in situations such as renting housing together, receiving employee benefits, making hospital visits, and giving consent for medical treatment.

While the Partnership Oath system has no legal force, we ask that businesses and organizations understand the intent behind it and offer cooperation through making use of the Certificates and Cards and other efforts.

## Access to municipal services

Couples may use Partnership Certificates to make use of several of the City of Hiroshima's services, such as shared grave applications and public housing. For more details, please refer to the Hiroshima City website.

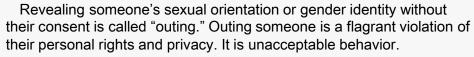




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If you are presented with a Partnership Oath Certificate and become aware of someone's sexual orientation or gender identity, or the fact that they are partnered through this system, it is important that you do not reveal this information without their consent.





# Agreements with other municipalities

If a couple partnered through the Partnership Oath System moves to or from a municipality that has concluded a mutual agreement with the City of Hiroshima, they may apply to their original municipality to continue to use their Certificates and Cards without surrendering their originals or reapplying at their new municipality.

For this reason, **service users may present cards or certificates issued by other municipalities** when using private sector services. In such a situation, please confirm that the card or certificate has been marked as approved for continued use.

#### Municipalities with which Hiroshima City has agreements

- Okayama City
- ◆ Fukuoka City
- Akitakata City

List accurate as of October 1, 2021. The number of municipalities may increase in the future.