

Mark E. Daigneault



September 28, 2004

Honorable Alan G. Hevesi  
New York State Comptroller  
110 State Street  
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller Hevesi:

I am enrolled in the New York State Retirement System as an employee of the New York State Insurance Department. I have been in a loving, committed relationship with my same-sex partner for thirteen years and formalized our relationship in a commitment ceremony ten years ago.

In light of current developments surrounding marriage, my partner and I are now planning to be married in one of the provinces in Canada where marriage licenses are available to same-sex couples. In taking this action, we thought the responsible thing for us to do to protect our family would be to explore in advance as much as possible what the legal and financial implications of marriage will be for myself, my partner and our two adopted children.

Specifically, I would like to know will our marriage as a same-sex couple in Canada be legally recognized by the Retirement System? How will my retirement benefits be impacted as a result of our marriage?

I thank you for considering my inquiry and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark E. Daigneault".

Mark E. Daigneault