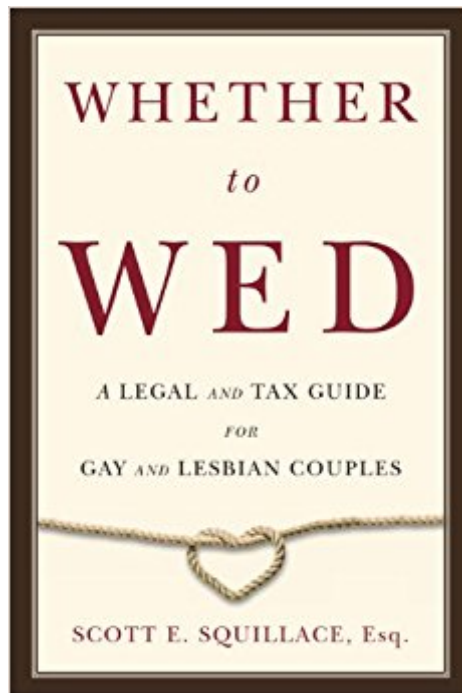




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# Whether To Wed: A Legal And Tax Guide For Gay And Lesbian Couples



## Synopsis

A practical guide for same-sex couples and their advisors to help understand the legal and tax issues they face when considering marriage. This timely book reviews the status of same-sex marriage around the country and helps the reader understand the full impact of the recent landmark rulings by the Supreme Court, IRS guidelines and other federal regulations with respect to gay marriage. While love may be paramount, Squillace's work helps couples evaluate the pros and cons of gay marriage from a legal, tax and financial planning perspective as they consider whether to wed. The author helps guide the reader through financial issues, like how to think about income tax filings and the effect of marriage on retirement plan benefits and Social Security. Squillace also discusses the impact the marriage decision has on children and the practical legal and tax benefits for families.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an ambitious book laying out the broad outlines of where we've been, where we are, and where we are going. Scott's practical assessments of how marriage changes rights and responsibilities are important reading for everyone. Equally important are his reminders of sensible legal steps to take regardless of marriage. --MARY L. BONAUTO, Esq., Civil Rights Project Director, GLAD, Boston, MA

"Scott Squillace is a dedicated lawyer, a gay husband, and an expert on the legal opportunities and land mines for same-sex couples. In *Whether to Wed*, he has written a timely, readable, and thorough starting point for gay and lesbian Americans who are thinking about marriage, grappling

with the intricacies of conflicting federal and state laws, and building families--meaning, these days, most of us."--Jonathan Rauch, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Author, *Gay Marriage: Why It Is Good for Gays, Good for Straights, and Good for America* "This is a rapidly changing area of law and Scott Squillace's book will help members of the LGBT community evaluate whether marriage is the right way to go. It is written with the non-lawyer in mind--but lawyers will also benefit from its wisdom."--Joan M. Burda, Attorney at Law, Author, *Estate Planning for Same-Sex Couples* "Whether to Wed is the primer every same-sex couple should read, whether they're contemplating marriage, or if they've already tied the knot. Scott Squillace helps us understand the legal, tax and financial consequences of marriage--both the benefits and the challenges--in an objective, organized and easy-to-understand way."--John McGowan, Senior Vice President, Northern Trust National Practice Leader for LGBT and Non-Traditional Family Practice "Whether to Wed demystifies the complex laws that apply to same sex couples, providing a timely, straightforward, and comprehensive guide to use as they consider what's best for their personal situations."--David Williams, Intuit Chief Tax Officer and Executive Director of the American Tax and Financial Center at TurboTax

This user-friendly guide is very informative about the legal, financial and practical considerations confronting gay and lesbian couples contemplating marriage in a quickly evolving legal landscape. It lays out both the pros and cons involved in such a momentous decision, and it does so in a straightforward manner that is understandable for non-lawyers. In addition, it provides very helpful information for lesbian and gay families and for financial and estate planning advisors. Recommended.

With the years of complexity - foreign (non US) marriages, civil unions and the complexities of Federal (US) versus States. Now we can focus on our families here in the US, with some certainty - and this guide is a useful first step. Thank you Mr. Squillace.

Well written and well organized, Scott Squillace's *Whether to Wed* provides a comprehensive analysis of the many complex legal questions facing gay and lesbian couples who are considering marriage. This is more than a tax guide for LGBT clients and their advisors, though. *Whether to Wed* explores the constitutional questions underlying the right to marriage, clearly explains the legal questions resolved by the Supreme Court's *Windsor* decision and following rulings, and also clearly explains what legal questions remain unresolved in the wake

of that decision, looks to the future of the legal debate surrounding the right to marry, walks the reader through the various federal and state law questions that apply to same-sex married couples, and sets out in a nicely organized way the “pros and cons” of same-sex marriage. This is an impressive technical analysis of the legal aspects of marriage for the LGBT community. But what impresses me most about this book is how thoughtfully and, well, lovingly Scott walks the reader through the complex maze of legal rules that apply to what is at its heart a deeply personal and emotional decision.

As a mortgage broker and advisor to my clients, I have often been confronted with the challenges that my gay and lesbian clients face: separate federal taxes, capital gains issues when selling property to each other, issues lending to one who is a citizen and spouse who is not, income qualification for a house when a spouse passes (but their SS benefits did not), etc. This book is a great resource for understanding the challenges and changes that recent progress in the laws have created; all good! I highly recommend this book for anyone who has gay or lesbian clients or simply wants to understand the challenges that these clients and friends face.

I really liked *Whether to Wed*. It is a remarkably clear guide to the convoluted, rapidly-changing area of gay and lesbian marriage. I work with wealthy families who already have enough complexity to deal with in their marital agreements, relationships, tax and estate planning, family businesses, and real estate dealings. They often have residences in multiple jurisdictions as well as trusts with multiple provisions related to bloodline, marital status, divorce, etc. Sorting through understanding of those issues requires a well-written, accurate, and insightful source of information for individuals or couples. I found Scott Squillace’s book to be that source, now when it is needed. Highly recommended.

Scott Squillace has written the definitive guide to taxation and financial issues surrounding LGBT couples considering marriage. Information relating to legalities, taxation, finance, are all clearly outlined and discussed. Any gay or lesbian couple considering marriage would be wise to read this book, as would any professional (financial advisor, accountant, attorney, etc) working with the LGBT community. I recommend it highly and without reservation.

This book is a must read for any advisor working with LGBT clients. It is clear, concise and most importantly, it is extremely informative and useful. Mr. Squillace tackles complicated legal and tax

topics and presents them in an easy to read format. Most importantly he focusses on how these issues impact couples and families on a very personal level. I highly recommend this book.

Scott Squillace's book is a practical, easy-to-understand guide to legal, tax and practical challenges for gay and lesbian couples. Whether you are considering marriage or are already married, this valuable text will provide answers to questions you have as well as questions you may not have considered - but should.

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