

**Case citation:** *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S 644 (2015).

**Procedural History:** Cases from Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee of 14 same sex couples and two men with deceased partners, against state officials who enforced restrictions on same-sex marriage, were decided by district courts in petitioners' favor. Respondents appealed to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, who reversed. Petitioners requested writ of certiorari, and were granted review by the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Statement of Facts:** Same-sex couples were either denied the right to marry or had marriages that were not recognized. They sued state officials, stating that this violated their Fourteenth Amendment rights.

**Issue/Question Presented:** Whether the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process clause protects marriages for same-sex couples.

**Holding:** The Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process clause does protect same sex marriages.

**Reasoning:** The liberties defined in the Due Process clause outline principles for how people should be able to live, and be treated by law. *Loving v. Virginia* set the precedent that marriage is a fundamental right, and should not have laws setting up barriers for it. By denying same-sex couples the right to marry, the court states that their equality was being stifled in violation of the Constitution.

**Disposition:** Decision of the Court of Appeals reversed. Same-sex marriages are, in fact, protected by the Due Process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.