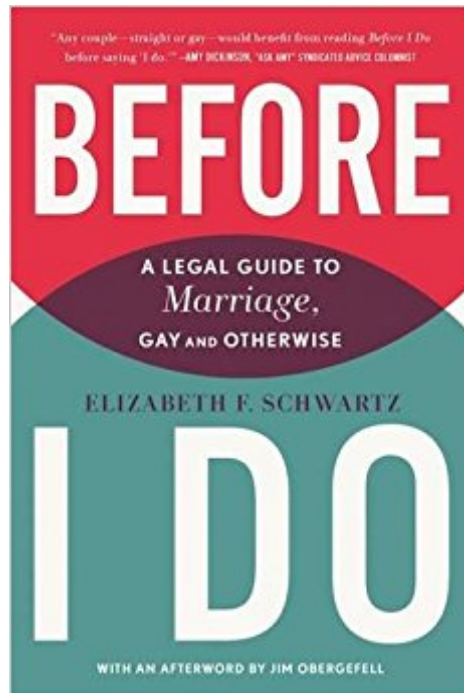


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# Before I Do: A Legal Guide To Marriage, Gay And Otherwise



## Synopsis

Not long ago, same-sex couples had to jump through endless hoops to make their relationships even close to legal. Happily, those days are over. Same-sex couples no longer have to operate as outlaws—they too can have in-laws! But here's the rub: many gay and lesbian couples, accustomed to living off-grid, are so thrilled to have the benefits of marriage that they gleefully jump into marriage without fully understanding the consequences. In her first book, *Before I Do*, leading gay rights attorney Elizabeth F. Schwartz spells out the range of practical considerations couples should address before tying the knot. She explores the rights marriage provides and those it does not. With cameos from some of the most prominent LGBT professionals, Schwartz explains all of the implications of marriage from name changes and getting a license to taxes, insurance, Social Security, and much more. Substantial chapters on estate planning, pre- and post-nuptial agreements, and organizing finances make *Before I Do* relevant for all couples, young and older, and a crucial handbook for anyone considering marriage—because, as Schwartz explains, just because you can get married does not mean you should.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Florida author Elizabeth Schwartz is a practicing lawyer who is a nationally recognized advocate for the legal rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. While her firm equally works with straight and gay clients in matters of family law, estate planning and probate, she has been at the forefront of providing crucial legal protections for LGBT families. She lectures locally, nationally and internationally about the impact of nationwide marriage equality, and the

continued importance of LGBT couples protecting their loved ones through estate planning, stepparent and second parent adoption. She focuses her practice both on family formation (adoption, insemination, and surrogacy) and dissolution, and handled the first divorce for a same-sex couple in Florida. Her awards and kudos are impressive. What is most refreshing about this very fine book is the manner in which Elizabeth approaches her topic â “ yes, it is about gay rights and the nurturing of same sex marriages, but it is also one very fine book for ALL people on the legal aspects of marriage. She carefully addresses name changes and getting a license to taxes, insurance, Social Security, estate planning, pre- and post-nuptial agreements, and organizing finances and in her manner of writing she tackles these issues without the usual cumbersome legalese so that all readers can comprehend each aspect. And she takes a step further toward universal connection by including significant guests to offer their viewpoints.

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