



Link, Copyright and Privacy Policies for www.westernequality.org

Adopted 17 July 2005 by Western Equality's Board of Directors

The following document outlines the policies for 1) hyperlinks contained within Western Equality's website, 2) linking to the Western Equality website, 3) requesting a link to your site from the Western Equality website, 4) use of or copying information from the Western Equality website, and 5) protecting the personal information of Western Equality members and users who access our website.

Topics covered are:

- Links contained within www.westernequality.org
- Linking to www.westernequality.org
- Getting a link from us to your site
- Sponsor links
- Reciprocal links
- Copyright information
- Privacy and security policy
- Changes to these policies
- Where to find additional information

Links contained within the Western Equality website

The Western Equality website contains links to other websites, located throughout the organization's site www.westernequality.org; link placement depends on the relation of the link with the nature of content on Western Equality's website. Graphic links are provided solely to sponsors/donors. (See sponsor links policy section of this document.) Approval and placement of links is at the discretion of Western Equality's Webmaster and Board of Directors.

Linking to the Western Equality website

Organizations and individuals (the site owner) are encouraged to link to our website. Advance permission is not required before linking if the site owner is making a simple link to our home page and their site:

- is not engaged in illegal activity;
- does not promote illegal activity;
- does not contain pornographic, profane, or otherwise obscene material;
- has not previously been denied permission to link to us.

We ask that site owners only link to us using the base URL <http://www.westernequality.org/>. You may also link to one of our sub-pages, where appropriate, but again, please use the base URL of <http://www.westernequality.org/>. For example, if you want to link directly to the Western Equality Events page you should use: <http://www.westernequality.org/events.htm>. We reserve the right to change sub-pages at any time without notice. Site owners should routinely verify any links to sub-pages of <http://www.westernequality.org/>.

What site owners may not do when linking to our website:

Site owners may not capture our pages within the site owner's frames; present our content as their own; or otherwise misrepresent the content of or misinform users about the origin or ownership of the content of Western Equality's website. Any link to our site should be a full forward link that passes the client browser to our site unencumbered. The "BACK" button should return the visitor to your site if the visitor wishes to back out.

You should not link to individual graphics or tables within our pages, especially in an effort to place the downloading burden on our servers. To get permission to use a copy of our graphics within your pages, please contact info@westernequality.org outlining your intended uses.

Notification

If you create a link from your site to ours, please notify us. Although you're not required to, we appreciate a note telling us of new links to our site. Please send link info to info@westernequality.org.

Getting a link to your site from us

An organization with a Web address will be considered for a hyperlink from Western Equality's website if it fits at least one of the following categories:

- Non-profit/not-for-profit, government, and private organizations that positively relate to and support the mission of Western Equality and its members.
- Definitive sources of information of interest to our site visitors.
- Links deemed topical, timely, or of other general interest to our visitors.

As a general rule, links to websites of individuals are not provided, however Western Equality's Webmaster and Board of Directors will consider each request on a case-by-case basis.

Requests and Notification:

To request that we link to your site please e-mail info@westernequality.org. You will be notified, usually via e-mail, within ten working days if a link to your site has been approved and added to our website.

We will remove a link if:

- at, our discretion, we choose not to include the link on our site;
- the link no longer points to the original information or resource that was intended;
- the information is inaccurate or not trustworthy;
- access to the information has become difficult due to odd formatting, lengthy download times, or intrusive advertising;
- the link has gone dead or remains unavailable for a lengthy period, especially if we are unable to contact you about your site's status.

Sponsor/Donor links

In recognition of their generous support of Western Equality, sponsors will receive a graphic link (logo or other graphical element chosen by the sponsor) to the homepage of the sponsor's website. Sponsor links will be located at the top of the content area on the Links page of Western Equality's website. At the discretion of Western Equality's Board of Directors, sponsors may receive graphic links placed in other areas of our website.

Reciprocal links

Western Equality does not enter into reciprocal link agreements. We provide links to sites at our will and that are appropriate to our mission.

Our creation of a link to your site does not obligate you to provide a link back to us, but you are, of course, welcome to do so. Additionally a link to any site is not an endorsement of the content contained on that site or through its links. Links to sites from the Western Equality website does not obligate Western Equality in any way to the linked site owner.

Copyright and Use of Information by Website Owners Linking to Western Equality's website

Although all content on our site is public information, Western Equality maintains and will defend a copyright interest in these pages. Certain information on our site may be trademarked, service marked, or otherwise protected as intellectual property, and federal copyright laws protect all content. Use of protected intellectual property must be in accordance with state and federal law and must reflect the copyright or other intellectual property ownership of Western Equality.

Protection of the Privacy Rights of Individuals Using the Western Equality Website

This following describes Western Equality's privacy and security practices regarding information collected from visitors to this website, including what information is collected and how that information is used. The policy applies to all pages beginning with www.westernequality.org and became effective 17 July 2005.

Use/Release of Information

The information we collect is used to improve the content of our website, not shared with other organizations for commercial purposes, disclosed when legally required to do so, at the request of governmental authorities conducting an investigation, to verify or enforce compliance with the policies governing our website and applicable laws or to protect against misuse or unauthorized use of our website.

Server Logs/Log Analysis Tools

Western Equality uses server logs and log analysis tools to create summary statistics about website usage to improve site management. The statistics are used for purposes such as assessing what information is of most interest to users, determining technical design specifications, and identifying system performance or problem areas. Western Equality does not report or use this information in any manner that would reveal personally identifiable information, and does not release the information to any outside parties unless required to do so under applicable law.

The following information is collected for this analysis:

- User/client hostname - Hostname (or IP address, if DNS is disabled) of the user/client requesting access.
- HTTP header, "user-agent" - Type of browser used, the browser version, and the operating system it is running on.

- HTTP header, "referer" - Page from which the user/client accessed the current page.
- System date - Date and time of the user/client request.
- Full request - Exact request the user/client made.
- Status - Status code the server returned to the user/client.
- Content length - Length, in bytes, of the document sent to the user/client.
- Method - Request method used.
- Uniform Resource Identifier (URI or URL) - Location of a resource on the server.
- Query string of the URL - Anything after the question mark in a URL.
- Protocol - Transport protocol and version used.

Western Equality, or its agent, monitors network traffic for site security purposes and to ensure that the site remains available to all users. Unauthorized attempts to upload information, change information on this site, or otherwise cause damage are strictly prohibited and may be punishable under Colorado law. Except as may be required for authorized law enforcement investigations, no attempts are made to identify individual users or their usage habits. Western Equality does not use raw data logs for any other purposes.

E-Mail

Western Equality will not sell or release the e-mail addresses of members of the public that have been provided to communicate electronically with our organization without the affirmative consent of the affected member of the public. Personally identifiable information contained in a question or comment sent to Western Equality in an e-mail message or submitted in an online form is only used by Western Equality to respond to the request and to analyze trends. Western Equality may redirect the message to another agency or organization that is in a better position to answer the question.

If you wish to not receive e-mail from us in the future, please let us know by sending e-mail to info@westernequality.org.

Web-Based Forms

Western Equality may use Web-based forms for such purposes as collecting survey results, providing online registration for some Western Equality-sponsored events, and providing updates about events or news pertinent to our members. Personally identifiable information collected from Web-based forms has a specified use (for example, registration, survey response, etc.) and Western Equality uses the information only for that purpose. Each Web-based form contains a link to this privacy policy.

An individual who submits information in electronic format through this website is entitled, on request, to receive and review the information Western Equality collects about the individual, and to have Western Equality correct the information. To do this, please contact us at info@westernequality.org. With respect to security: We have appropriate security measures in place where user-data is stored to protect against the loss, misuse, or alteration of information that we have collected from you on our site.

Cookies/Web Bugs/Web Beacons/Clear GIFs

The Western Equality website may use cookies to provide interactive pages, such as Web-based forms and surveys. Western Equality does not use cookies for other purposes. The Western Equality Web site does not use Web bugs (also called Web beacons or Clear GIFs) to track or report visitor information.

Changes to this Policy

From time to time, we may use website user information for new, unanticipated uses not previously disclosed in our privacy notice. If our information practices change at some time in the future we will post the policy changes to our website (with the date of the policy revision) to notify you of these changes and provide you with the ability to opt-out of these new uses. If you are concerned about how your information is used, you should check back at our website periodically. Users may prevent their information from being used for purposes other than those for which it was originally collected by e-mailing us at info@westernequality.org or calling us at 970-242-8949.

For Additional Information

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission provides information for educating consumers and businesses about the importance of personal information privacy at <http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/>.

More information about copyright laws is available from the U.S. Copyright office and can be found at <http://www.copyright.gov/>.

More information about Web standards and guidelines is available from the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and can be found at <http://www.w3.org/>.

If you have questions or comments about any of Western Equality's website or information policies, please send e-mail to info@westernequality.org or call us at 970-242-8949.