Security - Adverse Consequences for Same-Sex Couples

1.Equal Contribution, Unequal Benefits: All GLBT people pay into

Social Security on an equal basis with their heterosexual counterparts, but are not eligible for equal benefits.

2.No Survivors' Benefits: Same-sex partners do not receive survivors'

benefits when a partner dies, even though they pay for them equally.

3.No Disability Benefits: Same-sex partners are not eligible for

spouse's benefits when a partner becomes disabled, even though they pay equally into the program.

4.Children Are Left Unprotected: Sixty percent of children being

raised by same-sex couples live in a jurisdiction where second-parent adoption is unavailable, meaning that these children cannot secure a recognized legal relationship with one of their parents. When a parent dies without such a legal relationship, the surviving child is not eligible for surviving child benefits under Social Security, even though the deceased parent paid into the program, and even if the parent supported the child for her whole life.

5.Even When a Child is Legally Adopted by Same-Sex Partner, Benefits