



Gay couple from Minneapolis will say 'I Do' in CA wedding

By Jana Shortal
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They say the third time is a real charmer. In that spirit **Reverend Rebecca Voelkel** and Maggie George will tie the knot next month, for the third time.

"We laugh all the time. Here we are, raising a family in south Minneapolis causing problems for the rest of the world," George joked about her upcoming nuptials to her partner, Voelkel.

Over the last four years Rebecca and Maggie have gotten close to society confirming they are married.

In September of 2006 they were recognized as domestic partners in Minneapolis. In November of the same year, they held a commitment ceremony in the church. And now, come July 4th, they will legally be, wife and wife.

"I'm also looking forward to that whole by the powers vested in me by the state of California," Voelkel said.

The California Supreme Court's historic decision last month to allow gay marriages didn't just affect California couples. Maggie and Rebecca, south Minneapolis dwellers, will travel there to exchange their vows and be recognized, at least in that state, as a married couple.

"That's one of the definitions in this culture we are in. Marriage is one of the things that helps define a family and I think having a little girl and wanting to make sure no matter what happens to us she's taken care of," George said explaining why she and her partner want to get married.

While Maggie and Rebecca are under the California sunshine they will be married but legally, once they return home, they are not. Same sex marriage is not recognized in Minnesota. At least, in their opinion, not yet.

"People are fair here in this state so we really are working for it and we know it will happen. There will be legal recognition of our relationship at some point," Voelkel said.

Their marriage will be recognized, legally, only by the states of California and Massachusetts. They will not be recognized as a married couple at all by the federal government.