

EXHIBIT 9

DECLARATION OF MEAGAN METZ

I, Meagan Metz, hereby declare that the following facts are true under the penalty of perjury:

1. My name is Meagan Metz. I am an adult woman and am competent to testify to the following facts based on my personal knowledge:

2. I have lived in Flagstaff, Arizona since October 2009.

3. I was raised in a very religious LDS household where the outside world was limited to me. I didn't know it was an option to be attracted to those of the same sex. I was shielded from developing my own identity until I was able to attend college and view the world for myself. It was then that I realized I was attracted to the same sex. I met my first girlfriend at church and went through several months of secrecy. This included humiliating, embarrassing and degrading "therapy" sessions with my church leaders to "cure" me. I was a 20-year-old girl who was forced to divulge personal details of my love life to the male church leaders. It was then I made the best decision of my life: to be who I am, and to be proud of that. I left the church (shortly before being excommunicated) and never looked back. I came out to my religious family, friends, co-workers and everyone I came in contact with. I was going through great turmoil due to the reactions of my family, but I was happy, free and living my authentic life. I was strong and ready to meet the love of my life, which I did shortly after. The day I met Natalie, I knew all I had been through was more than worth it, and I would do it all over again. It was love at first sight and I knew I would spend the rest of my life with her.



4. I first met Natalie in 2006. I have never felt such a beautiful connection with anyone before in my life. She was loving, strong, honest and I was instantly drawn to her. We began as friends who loved and supported each other. We quickly got to know each other and offered support to one another in ways neither one of us had experienced before. I fell in love with Natalie almost instantly.

5. I have been in a committed, exclusive and intimate relationship with my wife, Natalie Metz, for the last seven years. We have lived together since 2007. We were lawfully married in the State of Washington on May 29, 2013. After our marriage, I changed my surname from Pugh to Metz in furtherance of my marriage to Natalie Metz.

6. We decided to marry in Washington because it was legal, and it held significant meaning to the both of us. We chose a very small group who offered constant love and support for us as a couple. Being able to legally marry Natalie was the greatest experience of my life. I have vowed to do everything I can to have that feeling in Arizona. After our marriage in Washington, we returned to Arizona and hosted a wedding reception in downtown Flagstaff. Our families, friends, and colleagues all attended the Flagstaff wedding reception in order to celebrate and recognize our marriage. Natalie and I refer to each other as “wife” and openly present ourselves as married. The support from our family, friends, colleagues, and the community has been overwhelmingly positive.



7. Natalie and I jointly own our home. We also have a joint personal bank account and jointly own a vehicle. All of our assets are combined and have been since 2008.

8. We share in all matters concerning the running of our household including caring for our two dogs, Lucy and Elden.

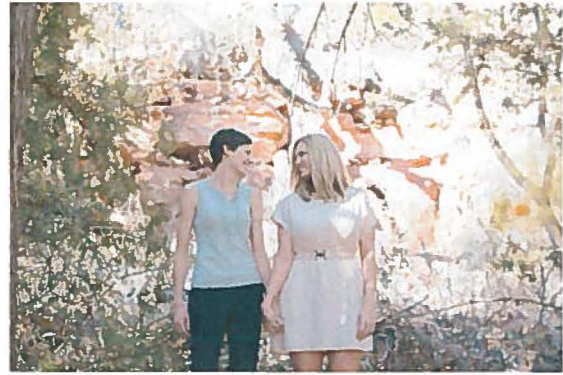
9. We would have married in Arizona years ago if the law allowed for it.

10. I am currently pursuing further education to attend Physician Assistant School so I can obtain a license to practice medicine in the State of Arizona.

11. On December of 2013, I was diagnosed with Lupus, a chronic, autoimmune disease that has been difficult to subdue. I am repeatedly hospitalized due to this disease. I have numerous doctors in Phoenix and in Flagstaff who I frequently see for doctors appointments and procedures. I have undergone extensive testing. I have been prescribed numerous medications, including ones with side effects involving headaches, nausea, dizziness, swelling of the face and extreme weight gain.

12. My symptoms due to this illness vary with intensity, but on a daily basis I suffer from extreme joint pain, fevers, rashes, headaches and fatigue. My wife, Natalie, has been there for me, supporting me and caring for me, in every way possible. She is by my side constantly, through every day of this illness, and the daily struggle to function normally amidst this debilitating disease.

13. Like many other loving, committed couples, Natalie and I want to raise a family together. We plan to engage in the process of artificial insemination of Natalie, who will be the biological mother of the child. I will assist Natalie during the pregnancy. I will want to be a legally recognized adoptive parent of our child so that I can love and support our child without fearing that I will not be given full parental rights.



14. Although opposite-sex married couples enjoy the presumption that both spouses are the parents of a child born in wedlock pursuant to A.R.S. § 25-814, Natalie and I are not treated the same way. Opposite-sex couples are not required to take additional steps in order to obtain legal recognition for both spouses as parents of their child. We are not treated equally, and would be forced to overcome a plethora of legal obstacles for the same recognition. Such obstacles are against public policy, unfair and unequal, and expose Natalie and I to unacceptable risks while depriving us of a host of critical legal protections should any health emergencies or other problems arise around the time of the birth of our child. Additionally, Natalie and I must suffer financial harm, by investing in legal services or risking our own time and effort in seeking parental recognition for both of us, which is not by any means guaranteed.

15. Because of Arizona's refusal to let us legally marry or to recognize our Washington marriage, Natalie and I cannot benefit from the filing of joint state tax returns, obtain health insurance at beneficial family rates, and are forced to manufacture contractual agreements to protect our rights that are unnecessary for any opposite sex married couples.

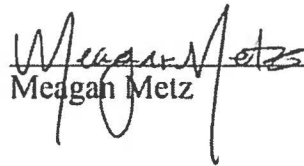
16. Every day that Arizona refuses to respect our marriage is a day that our family must suffer the indignity, stress, and stigma of not knowing whether or when our marriage will be recognized. Unlike opposite-sex couples who have the security of knowing that their marriage will be universally respected by the state and by private actors. We were forced to leave our home state – where we own a home, work, enjoy our friends and family, and live happily together – to be lawfully married in Washington. The daily injury and harm we feel while in our home state of Arizona is painful, unfair, and is the result of Arizona's discriminatory laws prohibiting our marriage from being recognized, or allowing us to become lawfully married.

17. Because our Washington marriage is considered “void” under Arizona law, Natalie and I are considered to be unmarried, or single, in the eyes of Arizona law. We will not give up on our insatiable desire to be lawfully married in Arizona. Therefore, on February 6, 2014, Natalie and I personally appeared before the Clerk of the Coconino County Superior Court and applied for an Arizona marriage license. We were refused a marriage license by Clerk of Court Deborah Young who told us that Arizona law prohibited us from becoming married. She handed us a copy of A.R.S. § 25-101 and turned us away.

18. Arizona’s refusal to recognize our marriage or allow us to marry here in Arizona has placed undue financial burdens on us, created an unequal and unfair tax burden on us, has created unfair long-term planning obstacles, and has denied us the privileges and protections given to similarly situated opposite-sex married couples in Arizona.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C., section 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 3/27/14



Meghan Metz