

# Five legal obstacles for Arizona's trans people



By Anna North  
**BUZZFEED**

Transgender residents of Arizona aren't protected from job or housing discrimination, can't get divorced, and may not be allowed to use the bathroom of their identified gender. Arizona's laws and policies are a reminder of the problems trans people can face nationwide.

## 1. SB 1045 would let Arizona businesses ban transgender customers from using the bathroom of their identified gender.

Arizona Rep. John Kavanagh said the bill was important to keep children from seeing "naked men in women's locker rooms and showers." But some transgender Arizona residents say it actually puts them at risk, because trans women could be assaulted if they use men's rest rooms. Testifying against the measure, Claire Swinford said, "What your bill attempts to do is sacrifice my personal safety for somebody else's sense of discomfort."

## 2. AZ trans people may not be able to divorce.

A family court judge ruled Friday that Arizona's ban on same-sex marriage makes Thomas Beatie's marriage to his wife invalid — so they can't get divorced. Beatie is transgender — he became famous when he was pregnant with the couple's child — and the judge says he can't prove he was male when he got married.

## 3. AZ does not protect trans people from discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

According to the ACLU, Arizona does ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public employment. But private employers are free to discriminate on that basis, and anyone can legally discriminate against trans

people for their gender identity. It's also legal to discriminate on the basis of gender identity when it comes to housing.

Transgender people may now be protected from discrimination by federal law, per a 2012 ruling. But Arizona still remains behind 15 states that do prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

## 4. AZ immigration laws may put transgender immigrants at disproportionate risk.

According to SB 1070, Arizona police officers must now question residents about their immigration status when they stop them for other reasons, if they have any reason to think they may be in the country illegally. Transgender people may face heightened risks in immigration detention, including sexual assault, being placed in solitary confinement, and being barred from accessing hormone therapy.

## 5. AZ's anti-bullying law was allegedly killed by an anti-LGBT group.

Last year, Arizona State Senator David Schapira proposed a bill that would have established a definition of bullying and mandated certain anti-bullying policies for the state's schools. The bill might have protected LGBT students, who are at risk of bullying — but it didn't actually mention sexual orientation directly. Still, Schapira said the bill stalled because of lobbying efforts by the anti-LGBT group the Center for Arizona Policy.

Cathi Herrod, lobbyist for the Center, wrote in a statement, "There is no doubt about it; the 'bullying' theme is agenda-driven propaganda. [...] Groups like Equality Arizona and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network have used the bullying issue in order to gain access to our public schools."

## Obituary

### In loving memory of Leo Leslie Krambeal



Leo Leslie Krambeal

Leo Leslie Krambeal died March 15 after a prolonged battle with cancer.

He was born Richard Leslie Price on Nov. 17, 1950, to Richard Albert and Gaynell Price in Seattle. The family moved to the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon when Les was about 18 months of age. He graduated from Eagle Point High School and then attended Willamette University, Salem, Ore. When he took a semester off, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam for 15 months. But horses, especially Arabian, were his passion. He was in his first horse show at the age of

5 and went on to become a champion calf roper and then served two terms as the second president of the International Gay Rodeo Association. He was also on the board of the International Arabian Horses Association.

Les was politically active. As a Stonewall Democrat, the LGBT arm of the Democratic Party, he served as chairman of the Political Caucus and was elected to the national board. His entire adult life was spent seeking justice in human, civil and LGBT rights. Les was usually employed in the law community working as a paralegal, office manager and in the county court system.

Les is survived by his partner of 23 years Gordon Owsley, and by his good friend Juan Gastelum, his mother and step father Gaynell and Keith Krambeal, two sisters Celeste and Dolores and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Richard Price; and two sisters, Gina and Alyce.

Contributions can be made in Les's name to Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, 375 S. Euclid Ave., Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, or Wingspan.

A memorial service will be held on April 10 in the Park West Community Ramada, 3003 W. Broadway Blvd., from 4 to 7 p.m. where a more complete obituary of Les's colorful history will be shared.



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