

October 19, 2017
Mizuho Bank, Ltd.

Mizuho Announces Further Expansion of Housing Loan Accessibility for Customers in Same-Sex Partnerships

In conjunction with increased societal awareness of individuals who identify as LGBT¹, from July 2017, Mizuho Bank, Ltd. (President & CEO: Koji Fujiwara) began providing same-sex couples with the same eligibility as married couples² with respect to “family pair repayment”³ and combined income calculations⁴ for housing loans if the couple presents a copy of their certificate of partnership issued by Shibuya ward. In response to requests received from customers after we introduced these changes to make our housing loans more accessible, Mizuho announces today that we have revised our internal rules and regulations governing housing loans to expand the scope of “same-sex partner” under the definition of “spouse”.

The expanded scope of “same-sex partner” is indicated in the table below. A provision has been added so that accessibility to housing loans for same-sex couples will no longer be limited to a certain geographic area as it will not be necessary for same-sex couples to submit a certificate of their partnership issued by a designated municipality if they are able to submit other designated documents. Mizuho Bank is the first bank in Japan to provide this expanded housing loan accessibility to same-sex couples at all branches throughout the country.

Before revision	After revision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If a same-sex couple presents a copy of their certificate of partnership issued by Shibuya ward in Tokyo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If a same-sex couple presents a copy of their certificate of partnership issued by Shibuya ward in Tokyo; or▪ If a same-sex couple presents an original or certified copy of (1) a notarized voluntary guardianship contract⁵, and (2) a notarized letter of agreement⁶, in addition to (3) a Certificate of Registered Matters (<i>tōkijikō shōmeisho</i>) pertaining to the voluntary guardianship contract.

Mizuho is committed to offering products and services to meet the diverse needs of our customers and society.

1: LGBT is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and here also includes all other non-heterosexual sexual orientations and non-binary gender identities.

2: Press release dated July 6, 2017:

https://www.mizuhobank.com/company/release/pdf/20170706release_eng.pdf

- 3: “Family pair repayment” refers to repayment by couples who live together and jointly own a home, and who are each party to the loan.
- 4: “Combined income calculations” refers to a loan applicant combining their income with that of another family member (including spouse) in a loan application for the purpose of providing evidence of ability to repay the loan.
- 5: A notarized voluntary guardianship contract entered into by two persons whereby each person becomes the guardian of the other. Under the Act on Voluntary Guardianship Contracts, a voluntary guardianship contract is a proxy agreement whereby the principal grants the power of representation to a person entrusted with voluntary guardianship (known as a “voluntarily appointed guardian” after a voluntary guardianship contract becomes effective) in connection with undertaking affairs related to the life, medical treatment and care, and administration of property in anticipation of the day the principal becomes incapacitated and thus unable to make decisions. The purpose of this arrangement is for the voluntarily appointed guardian to protect the livelihood of the principal in accordance with the contract.
- 6: A notarized agreement entered into between two persons who are cohabitating that clearly indicates the following matters:
 - The two persons are in a serious relationship based on love and trust; and
 - The two persons live together, mutually cooperate and share responsibilities, and are obligated to share necessary expenses for their cohabitation.