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# Gay marriage supporters, unhappy with civil unions, want state to let them marry

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An attorney for eight gay couples has told Connecticut's Supreme Court that their constitutional rights have been violated by the state's refusal to grant them marriage licenses.

Their attorney argued today that the court should rule that the state's marriage law is unconstitutional because it applies only to heterosexual couples.

Justices questioned how to define marriage as something other than a union between a man and a woman. The attorney for the couples countered that fundamental principles of marriage are not based on gender.

Attorneys for the state argued that civil unions give gay couples the same rights by state law as married couples.

The justices are expected to rule later this year.

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