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viding housing for families and married cou-' Williams said.

Domestic partnership contracts are not widely accepted and have not really been tested in the courts before, said Peter Swan, legal adviser to the president.

'A few counties or municipalities have passed ordinances to that effect (of recognizing domestic partnerships)," Swan said. "It certainly is not widely accepted.

Swan said family housing is subject to the landlords and tenants act, but it is unclear how, or if, the law prohibiting discrimination in renting property applies to the University.

Natasha, Robert and Brendon will be able to stay until the issue is resolved, but if the University decides against allowing domestic partners to live in family housing, they will be evicted. Brand said.

'We will take steps so that the stay will be in effect until fall of next year," Brand said. "We don't want anyone to suffer while we're working through this.

The discussion administrators are conducting goes beyond the domestic partnership issue and delves into who has entitlement to University family housing, Brand said.

But for Natasha and Robert, the issue becomes one of where they will live if they are forced to leave their \$155-a-month apartment.

'We just feel like we're little kids being told to get married because we're living in sin," Natasha said. "The fact we sleep together is nobody's

Natasha and Robert expressed their desire to get married once they finish college and get their

In the meantime, they decided to enter into a domestic agreement to legally define their relationship.

'If you look at the facts of Robert and Natasha, they are as much of a family as you can be, said Marlene Drescher, director of the office of student advocacy, who advised Robert and Natasha on their situation.

Drescher said tenants of Westmoreland and

Amazon have tried to make provisions for nontraditional families to live in family housing, provided they had proof of a sustained relationship.

University housing rejected the proposal and then adopted the provision of having a marriage certificate as a requirement to live in the subsidized housing. Drescher said.

There was organized concern that housing residents not fraudulently appear to be in families, and that housing administrators not abuse their discretion in some cases by allowing exceptions as they have." Drescher said.

Drescher said a domestic agreement is more specific than a marriage certificate because it outlines the obligations each person has in the rela-

Like any other contract, this should be a legally enforceable, binding agreement," Drescher

The policy behind family housing is to provide housing to accommodate the need of students living in a family structure, and it's an unfair and ineffective way of allocating this resource to make it contingent upon a marriage certificate," she said.

Debra Ogara, a law student in the student advocacy office, said the University could be breaking up a family if they decide against recognizing domestic partnerships

'They're basically giving Robert and Natasha three choices - move out, get married or Robert move out." Ogara said.

Natasha and Robert said they will fight the eviction in court to test discrimination laws and the validity of their domestic partnership if the University decides against them.

"We're happy that we got an extension." Natasha said. "We're not going to do anything but fight it. We don't have funds to move right now.

The couple presently is trying to obtain an eviction lawyer for advice and to represent them if the University undertakes eviction procedures

'We're going to be homeless, and that's all there is to it." Natasha said about the University deciding against allowing domestic partnerships in family housing.



Robert Fueher and Natasha Brady, shown here with her 2year-old son Nathan, face eviction if the University housing decides against allowing them to live in family housing.

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