

Cohabitation

How does cohabitation work?

The law treats unmarried couples differently from married couples. Your cohabitation rights mean there's a lot that can be done to protect your interests, including your financial assets. If there are children from the relationship, we can help you agree on arrangements that will work best for them.

Our knowledge of this complex area of law can help you to resolve your problems following a break-up with a cohabitation partner, with your case treated with compassion and respect from day one.

Knowing your cohabitations rights

- There is no such thing as a common law husband and wife.
- If a co-habitee dies, the survivor is not his or her next of kin and therefore may have to go to court to claim all or any of the deceased's estate.
- You may not automatically be responsible for any surviving children of the relationship.
- A co-habitee does not automatically acquire an interest in his or her partner's property simply by living there for a certain period of time. (The law in this area is so complex that some judges struggle to make sense of it.)
- Even if you own property together, you may not own it equally, especially if it was bought before 1996.

The benefits of a Cohabitation Agreement

A cohabitation agreement can help remove some of the above uncertainties. If you are going to live with a partner but not marry, it is sensible to create a cohabitation agreement that records your intentions about your assets and how you would share or divide them if your relationship broke up.

Our specialist solicitors can draft a cohabitation agreement for you. It is also beneficial as both parties are aware of their cohabitation rights, making the situation far more straightforward.



Expert help from an experienced team

Our experts are highly experienced and will treat each case uniquely, discussing your exact circumstances before anything else. It might be that a cohabitation agreement isn't right for you, in which case we'll suggest other options.

As with all cases, we ensure that you receive the utmost care and consideration whilst offering expert up-to-date advice on the latest laws.

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