

The Facts: Living Together

What is a living together agreement?

The law does not offer the same protection to people who live together as it does to married people or those in civil partnerships. A living together agreement regulates the different aspects of a couple's relationship.

For more information please contact:



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A living together agreement can deal with issues such as who should be responsible for the household bills and in what proportions if there is to be joint responsibility. It can deal with how your financial relationship will alter if you have children together and crucially, it will deal with the rights and obligations of each party to the agreement should your relationship come to an end.

A Deed of Trust can also be prepared which would record your respective interests in any property and be registered with the Land Registry.

Drafting a living together agreement

- You and your partner must seek and obtain independent legal advice
- Your solicitors must sign the agreement to confirm that this requirement has been met
- You must give full disclosure of your assets and other financial circumstances.

When should living together agreements be reviewed?

Family circumstances are likely to change so a living together agreement must be regularly reviewed to ensure that it still reflects the wishes of both parties. We recommend agreements should be reviewed every three to five years and on the occasion of a major event such as the birth of a child.

People we have advised

- A woman who had substantial funds from the breakdown of her marriage and sought to ensure that the funds would ultimately benefit her two children. They were used to purchase a joint property and the agreement confirmed the funds were ring fenced with the couple sharing in any additional equity that accrued after purchase.
- A mother who had provided her son with funds to purchase his first home and who had concerns about his plans to cohabit. That asset was protected and the agreement recorded the contributions that each were to make to on-going household expenses.

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