



Information Sheet: Living Together (Cohabitation) Agreements

A couple who live together can enter into a legally binding agreement to share their assets in a particular way - a cohabitation agreement. This is not automatically enforceable by the English Courts, however, a properly drafted agreement may be looked upon favourably by the court in any separation proceedings.

What does this mean for you?

If you are not married but are looking to buy property together you should set out the share of the property each party owns and how you wish the proceeds of the sale of the property to be divided if the relationship ends.

A cohabitation agreement could also set out how any assets are to be divided on the death of either party. It is important, however, that you also make a Will to specify exactly what you would like to happen in case of either party's death. Our Wills department will be happy to assist you with the drafting of your Will.

There is a strong argument that the law should be changed to bring about fairer outcomes for cohabitants on separation, however, such a change is yet to happen and, in the meantime, couples should plan ahead in case of relationship breakdown or death of either party.

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If you need any further information about matters in this information sheet, please do not hesitate to contact us.