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The myths and risks of living together - then separating

Setting up a new home together without being married is a very exciting time for couples and no-one wants to think about the possibility of your relationship breaking down in the future. But if the worst happens and you decide to separate, then you must rely on complex property and trust law to establish who owns what. Nearly two thirds of the population believe that living together can give you the same rights as marriage. Nearly two thirds of the population are wrong.

Protect your future

Moving in together may be one of the most romantic and exciting decisions you ever make but to avoid risk and negative financial implications, you should protect your future by setting up a Living Together Agreement now. This is a formal written Agreement that sets out the rights of both parties and it's for unmarried couples living together, whether you are a man and a woman or a same sex couple. An Agreement will allow you to govern how you will divide up the property should you split up; protect your finances; look ahead and put in place contingency plans for unexpected events such as children, separation, long-term illness or death. Discussing what goes into an Agreement can be emotionally difficult but it can bring a maturity to the relationship by talking through major decisions.

It's never too late

If you're reading this and already living with your partner it's not too late to put an Agreement in place. Living Together Agreements are relatively cheap and easy to make, so don't risk future recriminations and nasty surprises - act now.



Ann Corrigan is a family lawyer and she specialises in helping clients to make these Living Together Agreements. Why not give Ann a call on her direct line: 01256 854630 or you can email Ann on acorrigan@phillips-law.co.uk