



T:01252 726 741

DIVORCE • MEDIATION • COLLABORATIVE LAW • FAMILY LAW



CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

The Civil Partnership Act came into force on 5th December 2005 and enables same-sex couples to register as civil partners. The formal registration of the Partnership confers the same rights and responsibilities on the parties as a civil marriage does, for example in relation to tax, wills and inheritance law, pensions, insurance, and housing. The Civil Partnership Act amended a number of other Acts of Parliament so that those Acts are now read as including Civil Partners where they previously only dealt with married couples.

For example, the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 enables certain people to claim on the Estate of a Deceased person if the Deceased has not made provision for them under their Will. Spouses and former spouses are amongst those who can potentially claim, and so with the advent of the Civil Partnership Act, this now includes civil partners as well.

Prior to entering a civil partnership, you can enter into a prenuptial agreement – the same as a couple who are planning to marry. This seeks to protect each person's financial assets, and have prior agreement as to what should occur with any joint property, should the partnership come to an end. For further information on this, go to our page on prenuptial agreements.

Civil Partnership, like a civil marriage, can only be brought to an end by dissolution, by order of the Court. No application for dissolution can be made in the first year of the Partnership and the Court has the same powers to make orders in relation to financial matters and children as it would with a divorce. As such, the Court takes account of the same factors to help it decide those issues – take a look at our pages concerning finances and children to look at those in more detail.

Civil Partners are also entitled to the law's protection should their Partner become abusive and/or violent towards them. Domestic violence is a crime – if you are in immediate fear of violence, you should ring the Police. At JLS Solicitors we can help you obtain a civil injunction to protect yourself and any children who are also caught up in the abuse. See our page concerning domestic violence for further information.

At JLS Solicitors we can also help you to consider and discuss any issues that arise from the breakdown of a Civil Partnership in a non-confrontational way through mediation or through the collaborative law process.