

**THURSFIELDS**  
Solicitors

Cohabitation  
Agreements



# Cohabitation Agreements

## DO I NEED A COHABITATION AGREEMENT?

A cohabitation agreement is a written legal agreement between a couple who live together, but are not married or in a civil partnership. The agreement outlines what will happen to each party's individual assets, their joint assets, and sets out the financial arrangements for any children, if a couple should separate.

It is highly advisable for each party to consider whether they wish to protect their individual contributions to any joint property before moving in together and decide how they would wish for any assets to be divided upon separation. It is not a legal requirement for unmarried couples to have a cohabitation agreement; however cohabiting couples do not have the same rights or protections as people who are legally married.

A cohabitation agreement is a cost effective way to avoid acrimonious litigation should the relationship break down and the parties are in disagreement over how the assets should be divided and what financial obligations there are towards any children of the family.



# Cohabitation Agreements

## WHAT CAN BE INCLUDED IN A COHABITATION AGREEMENT?

A cohabitation agreement is particularly important if the parties make unequal contributions towards the purchase of the property and/or the outgoings on the property. A cohabitation agreement will offer peace of mind and protection by helping to avoid confusion about what will happen to joint property and other assets in the event of a relationship breakdown.

A cohabitation agreement can include things such as:

- What will happen to the parties' home should the relationship breakdown and what share of the property would be retained by each party.
- What each party will contribute to household bills such as rent, mortgage and utilities.
- How other financial matters will be dealt with such as joint bank accounts or pensions.
- What financial arrangements should be made for any dependent children.
- What would happen to items you have bought as a couple.



## GET IN TOUCH

If you require any further advice about a cohabitation agreement or require advice on obtaining a pre-nuptial agreement, please contact us on 0345 20 73 72 8 or email [info@thursfields.co.uk](mailto:info@thursfields.co.uk)