

## CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

In 2005, the law in the United Kingdom changed to allow couples of the same sex to enter into a civil partnership. Here we set out how our Family Law Team can help you.

### What is a Civil Partnership?

- Many people are unclear on whether there are different legal rights arising as between marriage and a civil partnership. We can explain the concept of civil partnership and advise you of your rights.

### Agreements

- We can advise on what are commonly known as “pre-nuptial” and “post-nuptial” agreements and the effect they have in relation to civil partnerships.

### Children

- Some people in civil partnerships may have children from previous relationships; others may wish to have children of their own. We can help with all child law issues, from child contact and residence to adoption. We can explain the legal concept of “parental responsibilities and rights” and guide you through any difficulties you may face.

### Separation

- We are experienced in dealing with couples who separate and deal with every case sensitively. We can explain all your options and help you come through the separation process as successfully as possible. We can advise on financial matters (see below) and issues relating to children (see above). Formally ending a civil partnership is a legal process which benefits from expert legal advice.

### Financial Provision

- Following a separation and / or formal dissolution of a civil partnership, there will inevitably be financial matters requiring resolution. Couples will no doubt have shared a home and joint assets such as cars, gifts and furniture. Matters become even more complicated once pensions and insurance policies are thrown into the mix. Members of our Family Law Team are renowned experts on financial provision following relationship breakdowns and will ensure your rights are protected.

### Any Other Business

- Couples in civil partnerships may wish to start up a new business together, buy a house, make new wills and so on. While our Family Law Team does not directly deal with these issues, Morton Fraser’s highly experienced Private Client Division can deal with any legal issues you have, whether these affect you personally or your business.