

What is a Civil Partnership

Civil Partnership were introduced in the UK in 2004. A civil partnership is very similar to marriage but is currently only available for same-sex couples. Since 2013 marriage has also been made available to same-sex couples and a civil partnership can be converted into a marriage.

The government are currently considering whether to phase out civil partnerships or make civil partnerships available to all.

How to get a Civil Partnership

To obtain a civil partnership you must provide at least 28 days' notice at your local register office including details of where you intend to form a civil partnership. This notice will then be displayed in the register office for 28 days. You must then register your civil partnership within one year, or 3 months if you're in Scotland.

Converting a Civil Partnership into a marriage

A civil partnership can be converted into a marriage at a register office or a religious or approved premises where same sex marriages are allowed. A list of these can be found on www.gov.uk. Once the marriage has been converted you will receive a marriage certificate dated when the civil partnership was formed.

You will need to sign a 'conversion into marriage' declaration which can be done by making an appointment with the superintendent registrar at your local register office. You will need to bring your original civil partnership certificate and your ID.

Considerations when entering into a Civil Partnership

Alike when entering into a marriage, it is important for parties to consider how your assets and income should be divided in the unfortunate event that your relationship breaks down. An agreement can be entered into setting out these terms called a 'Pre-Partnership Agreement'. This will be treated in the same way as a 'Pre-Nuptial Agreement'. Although they are not legally binding in the UK, their existence is taken into account when determining what a financial settlement should be on the break down of a civil partnership.

Dissolution of a Civil Partnership

If parties decide to end their civil partnership they enter a formal process called dissolution. This process is the same as a divorce. Please refer to our factsheet on Dissolution of a Civil Partnership for more detail.



To find out more, please contact our team now on

☎ **+44 (0)161 507 7145**

✉ **hello@mcalistefamilylaw.co.uk**