



## **CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

Since December 2005 same sex couples have been able to register their partnership which ensures they acquire the same rights and responsibilities as married couples. We have expertise in dealing with pre-civil partnership agreements and, if it all goes wrong, dealing with the dissolution of the partnership

You may wish to consider the legal rights and responsibilities that your civil partnership confers upon you from the outset, or even in advance of registration. These include:-

- a duty to provide reasonable maintenance for your partner and any children of the family
- ability to apply for parental responsibility for your partner's child
- equitable treatment for the purposes of assessment for child support, life assurance, tax (including inheritance tax), employment and pension benefits or inheritance of a tenancy agreement
- access to fatal accident compensation
- protection from domestic violence and from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation
- recognition for immigration and nationality purposes
- wills are revoked when you enter into a civil partnership and your partner can sue the other's estate if they are not named as a beneficiary under a will. If there is no will, partners benefit in the same way as married spouses

With so much at stake, you may wish to consider having an agreement in place before the ceremony to protect your interests and those of your partner. This might be, for example, because you bring different capital into the relationship or you might plan to live in a property owned by one of you. Whatever the issue, considering having an agreement in place in advance may protect you in the long run if things go wrong.

If the relationship fails, will guide you through the process of the dissolution and advise and assist you with financial or children issues so that you can separate with dignity.