

## Cohabitation

When cohabiting with someone it is important to consider legally protecting arrangements regarding your finances, financial contributions, ownership of the property, household expenses and other assets now and in the future while you live together and if you separate.

Despite common misconceptions, cohabiting couples do not have the same legal rights as married couples or civil partners, regardless of how long they've lived together or whether they have children.

Our experienced family law solicitors can help protect your interests with tailored legal advice for couples, including on the following:

- **Living Together Agreements (Cohabitation Agreements) for cohabiting couples who are not married.**

This is a legally binding document tailored to your individual circumstances setting out the financial arrangements agreed by cohabittees.

- **Declarations of Trust.**

Often part of, or drafted in combination with, Living Together Agreements, Declarations of Trust are a legally binding document which outlines the portions or percentages of the property each cohabitee owns.

- **Advice on the legal and financial implications of a subsequent marriage.**

Cohabitees who are considering getting married should obtain legal advice beforehand to understand the legal and financial implications of marriage. The rights of married couples are different to those of cohabittees and therefore any Living Together Agreement or Declaration of Trust may not be upheld in the event of a future separation.



- **Pre-Nuptial and Post-Nuptial Agreements.**

This is a legal document for couples who are getting married, or are already married. It sets out how assets, property, and finances will be divided in the event of a divorce or permanent separation. These agreements are not automatically legally binding in England and Wales but are increasingly upheld by courts provided they meet certain conditions. Our solicitors will ensure your agreement meets these conditions giving it the best possible standing should it ever need to be relied upon.

Getting legal advice helps you make an informed decision on whether it is in your interest to enter into a Living Together Agreement, Declaration of Trust or Pre-Nuptial or Post-Nuptial Agreement. It helps clarify how finances and assets will be managed, provides clarity, security, peace of mind and may reduce the risk of disagreements or conflict in the future.

The family team can also advise and support you with issues relating to:

- Divorce or Dissolution
- Matrimonial Finances
- Property ownership disputes
- Child arrangements
- Fertility and Parenting
- Domestic Abuse
- Special Education Needs



## Our clients choose us because we are:

- **Experienced** – Decades of specialist family law knowledge, with prenuptial agreement solicitors that are skilled in handling a wide range of complex financial and personal circumstances. Our solicitors are highly-ranked specialists (Legal 500, Chambers, Resolution, Children Panel).
- **Recognised excellence** – Legal 500 & Chambers rankings.
- **Practical** – Clear, pragmatic and sensible advice that is client-focused, tailored to your needs, focuses on solutions and avoids unnecessary complications.
- **Collaborative** – A joined-up approach with our in-house specialists in Wills, Life Planning, Tax, and Financial Planning, ensuring every detail is covered.
- **Accessible** – Offices throughout Essex, Suffolk and London, with flexible appointments offered both in person and remotely and outside usual office hours.

## We can offer

- Initial fixed-fee fact-finding appointment: £250 (includes VAT & onboarding)
- Flexible meeting options, including remote and out-of-hours availability
- All meetings are entirely confidential

### Contact our dedicated Family Law team

Call us on  
**0845 543 5700**  
or contact us via our online form:  
**[fjg.co.uk/contact-us](https://www.fjg.co.uk/contact-us)**

More information can be found on our website:  
**[fjg.co.uk/solicitors-for-you/family-law](https://www.fjg.co.uk/solicitors-for-you/family-law)**