

(Mobile ebook) Do We Need a Cohabitation Agreement: Understanding How a Legal Contract Can Strengthen Your Life Together

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Michael G. Cochrane

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Michael G. Cochrane : Do We Need a Cohabitation Agreement: Understanding How a Legal Contract Can Strengthen Your Life Together before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Do We Need a Cohabitation Agreement: Understanding How a Legal Contract Can Strengthen Your Life

Together:

You're committed, you're moving in together and you're blending your households. But are you forgetting something? Many Canadians find themselves in common-law relationships and think that they aren't any different from a legal marriage. It can be a shock to find out that, when the going gets tough, certain rights under the law—not to mention financial obligations—do or do not apply. For instance, if one common-law partner becomes seriously ill or passes away, will the other be able to access joint bank accounts? Their shared home? What happens if there is no will? And what about the kids? These are some of the many serious questions that couples need to consider before sharing their lives, all of which can be addressed in a cohabitation agreement. A cohabitation agreement allows a couple to make sure their partner and any children are taken care of in times of need or crisis; that ownership in properties or financial resources are clear, combined, separated or protected. Most of all, these contracts allow for the peace of mind that comes with having a game plan in place should the relationship end due to death or separation. Take the advice of Michael Cochrane, a lawyer with more than 30 years of experience, and consider the numerous issues that can affect a common-law relationship. *Do We Need a Cohabitation Agreement?* is written in clear, nontechnical language and includes real-life examples based on Canadian cases. Cochrane addresses critical issues such as wills and estates, powers of attorney, the special concerns of step-families and same-sex couples, and how to have this discussion with your partner. It will also help you work in a cost-effective way with a lawyer should you decide that an agreement will benefit your relationship. This is your future together. Get it right from the very beginning.

From the Back Cover You're committed, you're moving in together and you're blending your households. But are you forgetting something? Many Canadians find themselves in common-law relationships and think that they aren't any different from a legal marriage. It can be a shock to find out that, when the going gets tough, certain rights under the law—not to mention financial obligations—do or do not apply. For instance, if one common-law partner becomes seriously ill or passes away, will the other be able to access joint bank accounts? Their shared home? What happens if there is no will? And what about the kids? These are some of the many serious questions that couples need to consider before sharing their lives, all of which can be addressed in a cohabitation agreement. A cohabitation agreement allows a couple to make sure their partner and any children are taken care of in times of need or crisis; that ownership in properties or financial resources are clear, combined, separated or protected. Most of all, these contracts allow for the peace of mind that comes with having a game plan in place should the relationship end due to death or separation. Take the advice of Michael Cochrane, a lawyer with more than 30 years of experience, and consider the numerous issues that can affect a common-law relationship. *Do We Need a Cohabitation Agreement?* is written in clear, nontechnical language and includes real-life examples based on Canadian cases. Cochrane addresses critical issues such as wills and estates, powers of attorney, the special concerns of step-families and same-sex couples, and how to have this discussion with your partner. It will also help you work in a cost-effective way with a lawyer should you decide that an agreement will benefit your relationship. This is your future together. Get it right from the very beginning.

About the Author MICHAEL G. COCHRANE, LL.B., has been practicing law in Ontario for 30 years and is a partner with the firm Ricketts, Harris LLP. He is the author of a number of books including *Surviving Your Divorce: A Guide to Canadian Family Law*; *Do We Need A Marriage Contract? Understanding How a Legal Agreement Can Strengthen Your Life Together*; *Family Law in Ontario: A Practical Guide for Lawyers and Law Clerks*; and *Strictly Legal: Things You Absolutely Need to Know about Canadian Law*. Mr. Cochrane has hosted *Strictly Legal*, a legal affairs show on BNN and has appeared as a guest legal expert on many radio and TV programs. He writes a regular column for *Zoomer* magazine and speaks frequently on a variety of legal topics to average Canadians. Visit his website www.michaelcochrane.ca or www.rickettsharris.com.