



Information and Explanations – Common-Law Couples

A common-law couple is defined as two partners who jointly maintain a family unit and are cohabiting, but are not formally married to each other.

The full range of obligations and benefits arising from marriage and divorce laws may apply to the two partners who have the status of a common-law couple, **sometimes without the partners even being aware of the obligations and benefits that this status provides.**

The following are a number of examples of the State of Israel's laws, which grant benefits to common-law partners.

1. National Insurance (Bituach Leumi) Benefits

All of the benefits that the National Insurance Law grants to a married woman are also granted to a common-law partner. For example, the law grants a survivor's pension to the partner of the deceased.

2. Inheritance Rights

Section 55 of the Succession Law, 5725-1965 applies to common-law couples who run a joint household and were unmarried at the time of their death and stipulates that the partners would receive inheritance from each other unless there was an alternate provision included in the will of the deceased partner.

3. Shared Assets Presumption

Upon separation, the division of assets accrued by the couple during their life together will be based on the shared assets presumption.

4. Spousal/Partner Support (Alimony) Rights

Common-law couples have the right to partner support from the estate upon the death of one of the partners.

During their shared life, current law recognizes the mutual right of common-law couples to receive alimony from one another.

The law also recognizes the right of partners to adaptation fees after separation.

5. Pension Rights

If the existence of a common-law relationship is proven, then, in the case that one of the partner dies, his or her pension rights – such as various pension funds – will be transferred to the surviving partner (subject to conditions determined in the pension fund regulations).



There are other legal provisions that apply to common-law couples, and the above information should not be regarded as legal advice, rather general information only.

1. Name _____ ID # _____

Date _____ Signature _____

2. Name _____ ID # _____

Date _____ Signature _____