

# Protecting your family and future



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## 1. Buying a house

Buying your first home with a partner is an exciting time.

The law relating to people living together is complicated. It can often have unintended consequences so it's important to protect your investment, particularly if one of you is putting more capital in than the other or has a higher income and will therefore be contributing more to the mortgage and other outgoings.

Also, when buying or moving home, remember to make a will.

## 2. Getting married or entering a civil partnership

One of life's most exciting events.

Unfortunately, many marriages and partnerships don't work out. You can save yourself a great deal of stress and legal cost if you have had the good sense to make a pre-nuptial agreement, setting out what will happen to your assets if you separate.

## 3. Having children

A joyous time that changes life forever!

A reminder to make sure you review your will so that your wishes are carried out as you intend, after your death.

If you are not married, remember that the father of the child will only have parental responsibility if they are named on the child's birth certificate.

If you have previously signed a living together or pre-nuptial agreement then it is worth having it reviewed at this stage.

## 4. Setting up a business

You may be setting up a business for the first time or restructuring your existing business.

Often a business owner will involve their spousal partner in the business. They may of course be working for the business or it may be for tax efficiency reasons. In either case, it is really important to be clear about ownership and what happens if the personal relationship breaks down. This can be achieved through a shareholders agreement or pre- or post-nuptial agreement, or through a living together agreement.

Yet another reminder too about making a will!!!

## 5. Ending a relationship

Making sure you have the right advice at the right time can be key to minimising the impact of family breakdown when a relationship comes to an end. Keeping a divorce amicable is desirable, but always make sure that you formalise the arrangements when you split, so you both know where you stand for the future.

## 6. New relationships

If a past relationship hasn't worked out then life tends to move on and new relationships are formed.

The financial background to these new relationships can be even more complex than before and it is likely that you will each have your own assets and maybe even children from previous relationships. Again, it is important to take time to stop and think and either enter into a living together agreement or if you plan to marry, a pre-nuptial agreement.

You should also review your will.

## 7. Helping your children and grandchildren

More often than not these days, children rely on their parents to help them enter the property market.

Make sure any deposit you provide is protected. This doesn't necessarily mean you have to insist upon immediate repayment but in the event that your child and their partner subsequently separate, it will ensure your money is protected.

Gifting money to children and grandchildren can be a tax efficient way to manage your estate but there are considerations and exceptions so make sure you seek advice on the best way forward for you and your family.