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# ASHBY FAMILY LAW PRACTICE SOLICITORS

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## Civil Partnerships

Civil Partnerships allow same-sex couples largely the same legal rights as those conferred by marriage. The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 extended marriage to same-sex couples, but civil partnerships are still available; in late 2014, civil partners will be granted the option of converting their partnership into a marriage.

In most respects, a civil partnership operates in a similar way to a marriage:

- The court can make similar orders to those it can make in respect of a marriage, *e.g.* dissolution (*i.e.* divorce), nullity, and separation orders.
- Parental responsibility can be acquired by the civil partner of a parent, and he/she can apply for a Child Arrangements Order.
- Financial provision and property adjustment orders, equivalent to those which can be made on the breakdown of a marriage, can now be made on the breakdown of a civil partnership.



If you wish to discuss civil partnerships or any other matters relating to your relationship, then telephone us on 01332 293 293 or e-mail us at [solicitors@aflp.co.uk](mailto:solicitors@aflp.co.uk) to arrange to meet one of our solicitors. We give an initial 30-minute consultation free of charge.

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