

Update



Lanyon Bowdler
SOLICITORS

Your quarterly bulletin on legal news and views from Lanyon Bowdler

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS VS. MARRIAGE

The number of same-sex civil partnerships has dropped dramatically since the law was changed to allow same-sex couples to get married in 2014 – but will the trend change when heterosexual couples are offered the ability to enter into a civil partnership?



In this article we discuss the similarities and differences between civil partnerships and marriages.

The most important similarity is that both provide legal recognition to a relationship between two people. In turn, both marriage and civil partnerships offer many of the same legal rights in respect of various areas of law, including financial remedy claims against one another in the event the relationship breaks down, parental responsibility, inheritance tax and intestacy rights.

Both heterosexual and same sex couples may enter into a marriage in England, Wales and Scotland.

The differences between a civil partnership and a marriage are not significant, but here are the main points:

- Currently only same sex couples can enter into a civil partnership, but this may change in the near future given the Supreme Court's decision that it was against the human rights of heterosexual couples to be prevented from entering into civil partnerships.
- Civil partners cannot refer to themselves as 'married' and married couples cannot refer to themselves as 'civil partners'.
- Civil partnerships are registered by the couple signing the civil partnership document as opposed to marriages where the couple exchanges vows.
- Both parents are named on the civil partnership certificate whereas only fathers are named on the marriage certificate.
- In the event that the couple's relationship breaks down and they seek legal recognition of the same, the legal terminology for the two differs with a decree absolute / divorce being sought in

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EXPANSION OF NORTH WALES RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TEAM



We have recently expanded our residential property department in North Wales with the latest member of staff to join our team, solicitor, Vicky Clishem.

Our new office in Conwy, which opened in 2019, had already led to a growth in clients and an expansion in staff in the North Wales area. Our client base has grown across most of our areas over the last 18 months, but North Wales in particular has seen a significant increase.

We have been working with clients in the area for some time, and have had a presence in Conwy since 2018, but opening a permanent, fully-staffed office has made a big difference. It has been a significant development for us as a firm and we are looking forward to continuing our growth.

Vicky has joined our Conwy office following time at a renowned firm in Chester and a high street firm in rural North Wales.

Born and raised in Porthmadog and a fluent Welsh speaker, Vicky assists people with a range of legal services – sales and purchases of residential property, transfers of equity, equity release, leasehold and freehold property, registered and unregistered land and more.

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“Ease of being able to speak to a member of the team.
Clarity of communication. Friendliness of team members.”

JN, Shrewsbury

QUIZ NIGHT RAISED MONEY FOR SHROPSHIRE SUPPORT GROUP

Nearly £1,500 was raised at our recent quiz night in Shrewsbury to benefit a Shropshire support group.

Hosted at The Buttermarket, teams of up to six people participated. The total raised on the night was handed over to Shropshire Epilepsy Support to help the group's vital work. This includes offering help and support to adults and children with epilepsy and their families, whilst promoting better understanding of the condition and the skills and knowledge needed in providing a safe environment for people with epilepsy.

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respect of a married couple and a dissolution order being sought in respect of a civil partnership couple.

- Some countries do not recognise civil partnerships.
- Some associate marriage with patriarchy and a marriage can have religious connotations, whereas civil partnerships do not.
- Those in a civil partnership can convert the same into a marriage whereas the same is not true vice versa.

What are the differences in respect of marriage entered into by a same sex couple as opposed to a heterosexual couple?

- Very little is the answer! The main two being that a same-sex couple cannot seek an annulment based on non-consummation; and a same sex couple cannot petition for divorce based on adultery, given the current legal definition of adultery being sexual relations between a man and a woman, one of whom is not party to the marriage.

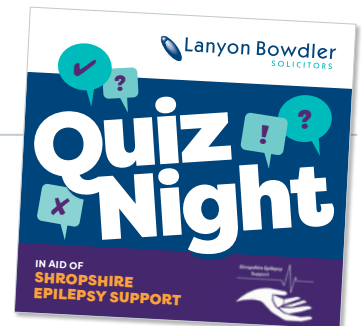
What if couples cohabit as opposed to marry or enter into a civil partnership?

Common law husbands and wives acquiring rights through their cohabitation is a myth. Couples can formalise their financial arrangements by entering into a cohabitation agreement, but this does not offer the same rights and responsibilities as married couples or civil partners.

For more advice about family law issues, why not give us a call on 0800 652 3371 or visit www.lblaw.co.uk

By Anne Lewis, Associate Legal Executive (FCILEx),
Family Department.

To date they have focused on making businesses and healthcare professionals aware of the condition and its impact in relation to adults.



More than 120 people attended the quiz, which also included a raffle with the top prize of a night away and dinner for two at London's prestigious Hilton Hotel in Canary Wharf.

Kay Kelly, head of our clinical negligence team, said: "It was a wonderful night, very well-supported and we were delighted to raise a fantastic sum for such a worthy cause."

"There were also some excellent raffle prizes on offer and I would like to thank all those who came along on the night to support us and those people who donated prizes."

"The aim of the quiz was to help Shropshire Epilepsy Support raise the money they need to convert to charitable status and to launch an epilepsy awareness training programme targeted at children in local primary schools."

"Founder, Ange Barre, was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of nine and can't drive due to the condition so that donation also helped fund the cost of taxis to get her to and from schools in order to present."

Ange described the evening as hugely successful, thanking all those who attended, donated raffle prizes and to us for organising the quiz. It was a wonderful sum of money raised and it will certainly be put to good use.

Ange commented: "Every pound donated to us is a valuable contribution to the work we are doing within Shropshire. We are a not-for-profit organisation which supports people across the county affected by epilepsy so we are grateful for any financial assistance we receive."

Here at Lanyon Bowdler, we are committed to supporting the good work that charities do in our community. Their efforts can go unrecognised and are often carried out with little funding assistance. We believe it's important to offer support whenever we can to help them try to achieve their goals.

Shropshire Epilepsy Support works with people of all ages in Shropshire. They work hard to raise awareness about the condition and fight to increase the level of support for those battling the condition.

For more about the work of Shropshire Epilepsy Support, visit the website www.shropshireepilepsysupport.com

**“Communication, how professional and helpful everyone was!
The care and consideration that was taken personally.”**

HG, Oswestry

GOING FOR GOLD WITH GREEN AWARD

We have struck gold again with our commitment to improving environmental performance.

The retained Green Achiever Gold Standard Award status has been issued by E4environment, along with an additional Diamond Banner, in recognition of the fact that we have demonstrated ongoing improvements for the last 10 years.

E4environment is a consultancy working on projects across the UK. The company specialises in providing guidance on environmental issues surrounding the more technically demanding projects in the areas of waste and renewable energy.

Deborah Cairns, director of E4environment, said: *“It’s always rewarding doing a Lanyon Bowdler review as the ambition to continually improve environmental performance is clear.”*

“I have granted retained Green Achiever Gold Standard Award status, in recognition of legal compliance being maintained, the many examples of current good environmental practice, improvements made during the last 12 months and the ambition to improve further going forwards.”

“Yet again Lanyon Bowdler has continued on the path of achieving improvements in environmental performance by making long-term investments in building works and software packages which enables the team to work more efficiently and effectively for clients, whilst consuming fewer raw materials.”

“They have altered operational procedures to drive financial savings which align with increasing environmental behaviours through a new travel and expenses policy, and retain the investments in staff training to ensure the culture remains one of awareness and support for the CSR aims.”

“In recognition of 10 years of continuous improvement the firm is also awarded the Diamond Banner.”

Rowland Waddington, our operations manager, has commented that this is excellent news for us and that we are delighted that our ongoing efforts in improving our environmental performance have again been recognised in this way.

The environment and taking care of the world around us is extremely important today and we are always happy to consider anything which will help towards this goal.

We are very committed as a firm to reducing our carbon footprint as much as possible.

Our new Hereford office includes a state-of-the-art heating control system which monitors the internal and external temperature and can be operated remotely, the lift is a 23% lower energy electric lift, plus where we have installed new light fittings these are all LED lights.

When we replace computers across the firm where older computers are no longer meeting the needs of the business, the replacement computers are all compact low-energy devices.

We also continue to encourage staff to travel together to events where possible and will be planning to build on the implementation of iManage, a document management system, in the future to reduce the amount of printing and paper usage.

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She has specialised in property law, and particularly residential conveyancing, since completing her academic studies in 2013.

Vicky describes it as an area of law she really enjoys because it involves helping people with one of the most important transactions they will ever undertake – buying or selling their home. It can be a stressful time, but the right legal advice can certainly help take some of that stress away.

We have been assisting clients in North Wales for some time with lawyers working from our Oswestry office, but felt it was important to have a permanent base in the area. Since the office in Conwy has been operational, there has been a steady growth in demand and it’s fantastic to welcome Vicky to our residential property team.



Our People, Your Team

Contact **Lanyon Bowdler** to find out about the full range of legal services we offer

info@lblaw.co.uk • www.lblaw.co.uk

“ Good, timely service and advice. Always polite and very helpful. **”**
BC

THREE NEW PARTNERS TO STRENGTHEN TWO OF OUR TEAMS



We have appointed three new partners to help strengthen two of our major legal teams.

The appointments took effect at the beginning of February and involve promotions from within the firm.

Emma Broomfield and Beth Heath are key members of the clinical negligence team in Shrewsbury, while Sarah Whittall, who specialises in commercial and agricultural property, is based at our office in Hereford.

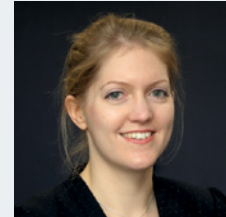
Beth is a Shrewsbury native; she joined us in 2012 and progressed to associate solicitor before becoming one of the firm's youngest partners this year. She has worked on a variety of clinical negligence cases, particularly, in recent times, relating to the Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals maternity scandal, and is recognised as a recommended lawyer by The Legal 500 in its 2020 directory.

Emma has been with us since September 2003. She has more than 15 years' specialised experience in clinical negligence litigation, is a member of the Law Society's Clinical Negligence Panel and a Senior Litigator with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers. Emma was awarded AvMA Specialist Clinical Negligence Panel accreditation in 2019.

She also appears as a recommended lawyer by The Legal 500 in its 2020 directory and recognised in the 2020 edition of Chambers UK.

Sarah qualified in 1989 and joined us in 2017. She has spent over 25 years working in Herefordshire specialising in both commercial and agricultural property work. She acts for a number of local commercial landlords and is also involved in the sale and purchase of development land for landowners and developers.

SPOTLIGHT ON... ELEANOR PIDDOCK



Eleanor studied law as a graduate student at Oxford Brookes University, having previously read Philosophy and Theology at St Peter's College, Oxford.

She obtained the Legal Practice Certificate from the University of Law in 2014 and completed her training contract at Knights 1759 (formerly Darbys Solicitors) in Oxford.

She qualified as a solicitor in 2016 and deals with various types of family law cases, including divorce, financial remedies for married and unmarried couples, pre-nuptial agreements and private law children matters.

Eleanor is a member of Resolution and is committed to resolving matters as amicably and calmly as possible for all clients.

Having relocated to Shropshire, Eleanor joined Lanyon Bowdler in November 2017. She is a member of the family department and is based in our Telford office.

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