

COMMON-LAW SEPARATION | WORKSHEET 1 OF 3

Adult Interdependent Partner Status Timeline

Maps cohabitation, children, agreements, separations and evidence relevant to Alberta status.

BEST USED
WHEN

Use this when legal status is uncertain or the relationship included breaks in cohabitation.

ALBERTA LEGAL CHECKPOINT

In Alberta, the legal term is adult interdependent partner, and the test is not the same as a tax or benefit-program definition of common law. Depending on the facts, status can arise after three years, sooner where there is a child and a relationship of some permanence, or through an adult interdependent partner agreement. A property claim may face a two-year deadline tied to when you knew, or ought to have known, the relationship ended.

Primary source: [Alberta: Dividing property between unmarried partners](#)

PREPARED FOR _____

DATE _____

1 Complete what you know

2 Mark gaps and assumptions

3 Attach supporting records

THE PRACTICE LENS

Three years of continuous cohabitation is not the only path to adult interdependent partner status, and a tax label does not decide the family-law test. We use the timeline to connect dates with evidence of permanence, shared life and economic or domestic interdependence.

A CONCRETE EXAMPLE

A couple lived together for 30 months and had a child, but kept some finances separate. The analysis is not finished by counting months or checking a tax return. Housing, caregiving, how they organized daily life and the permanence of the relationship all need to be mapped.

Relationship timeline

Use one row per issue and identify the source for every important number or date.

Date	Event	Evidence	Why it matters
	Cohabitation began		
	Financial interdependence		
	Child born or adopted		
	Adult interdependent partner agreement		
	Period living apart		
	Relationship ended		

Interdependence evidence

Tick completed items. Circle anything that needs a document, follow-up or legal advice.

- ☐ Shared residence, lease, mortgage or utilities.
- ☐ Joint accounts, credit, insurance or beneficiary designations.
- ☐ Financial support, shared expenses or pooled income.
- ☐ Care of children and domestic responsibilities.
- ☐ Public representation of the relationship and mutual commitment.

Questions status does not answer

Use short factual notes. If an answer is uncertain, write what would confirm it.

1. Even if status is established, what property was acquired and when?
2. Is support entitlement disputed separately from status?
3. Are parenting or child-support claims governed by different tests?
4. Did an agreement alter property or support rights?
5. Which date starts any limitation period?

BRING THIS TO YOUR CONSULTATION

You do not need every blank filled. Mark the three items that matter most, attach the records you relied on and use this handoff to identify the next decision.

STATUS	☐ Ready to discuss ☐ Missing records ☐ Deadline or urgent issue
NEXT REAL DEADLINE	
RECORD OR ANSWER STILL NEEDED	
DECISION I NEED HELP WITH	

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