

COMMON-LAW SEPARATION | WORKSHEET 3 OF 3

Common-Law Separation Issue Map

Separates property, support, parenting, estate and contract questions into a workable action list.

BEST USED
WHEN

Use this before a consultation to avoid treating common-law status as the only issue.

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

Status is a gateway question, not the entire file. We separate Family Property Act issues from support, parenting, jointly owned assets, contracts and estate concerns so one uncertain label does not obscure a claim or practical step that stands on a different footing.

A CONCRETE EXAMPLE

A dispute may involve a jointly titled home, a business loan guarantee, child support and a beneficiary designation. Even if adult interdependent partner status is contested, the ownership documents, debt exposure and parenting obligations still need immediate analysis.

Map the claims

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

Issue	Current position	Record needed	Deadline
Adult interdependent partner status			
Family property			
Spousal or partner support			
Parenting and child support			
Home occupancy or sale			
Agreement or trust claim			
Estate or beneficiary issue			

Property questions

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

1. What did each person own when the relationship began?

2. What was acquired during the relationship and in whose name?

3. Did either person contribute money or labour to property owned by the other?

4. Are there gifts, inheritances, business interests or trust assets?

5. What debt or guarantee remains jointly connected?

Prepare for advice

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

☐ Bring the relationship timeline and possible end dates.

☐ Bring any cohabitation, property or adult interdependent partner agreement.

☐ List every significant asset and debt.

☐ Identify current income and immediate support needs.

☐ Write the three outcomes that matter most over the next 90 days.

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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