

The Civil Partnership Act 2004

This authoritative guide to the Civil Partnership Act 2004 is written by two family law barristers with a combined practice experience of over fifty years. *The Civil Partnership Act 2004: A Practical Guide* provides clear, concise explanations of the new legislation. The book covers the lifetime of a relationship, from entering into the civil partnership, its consequences in terms of financial and family arrangements, to practical guidance on how the partnership is dissolved and the consequences of breakdown and death.

PAUL MALLENDER is a specialist in family work in the High Court and all other jurisdictions, at 2 Pump Court. His work includes Children Act and child support cases, ancillary relief, judicial separation, nullity, wardship and child abuse.

JANE RAYSON is head of chambers at 2 Gray's Inn Square. She practises exclusively in family law and her work is (broadly) divided equally between children and ancillary relief.

The Civil Partnership Act 2004

A Practical Guide

PAUL MALLENDER, LLB, Barrister

JANE RAYSON, LLB, Barrister



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Paul Mallender, Jane Rayson
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Foreword

It is difficult to overestimate the significance and importance of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 in terms of the changes it makes to the treatment in law of same-sex relationships. I am proud to have been a member of the governing party which introduced such ground-breaking legislation and to have had the opportunity as a member of the House of Lords to have championed its cause in that chamber.

This book is an erudite, but highly practical, guide to the legislation. It represents for the authors – both highly experienced and well-regarded practitioners – a continuation of their contribution to the understanding of major pieces of family law legislation. I am confident that this book will enjoy the wide critical acclaim their other publications have attracted. Its clear and detailed explanation of the steps that intending couples need to take to enter into the partnership, its consequences not only in terms of their financial and other mutual obligations including their property rights, but also the impact the partnership will have on their relationship with government agencies will be of immense assistance to a wide range of readers. Although the primary audience of the book will be solicitors and barristers called upon to advise clients on the impact of the legislation, judges and their support staff will also benefit from this guide. It should also be of considerable assistance to lecturers and others who are called upon to explain the nature and workings of what is without question a major piece of social legislation. Many agencies and organisations such as social workers and government departments will need to have a general understanding of the legislation and this work should provide an easy route to that.

It is aptly titled and I am delighted to commend it.

Lord Alli
House of Lords
June 2005

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Paul Mallender
Jane Rayson

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