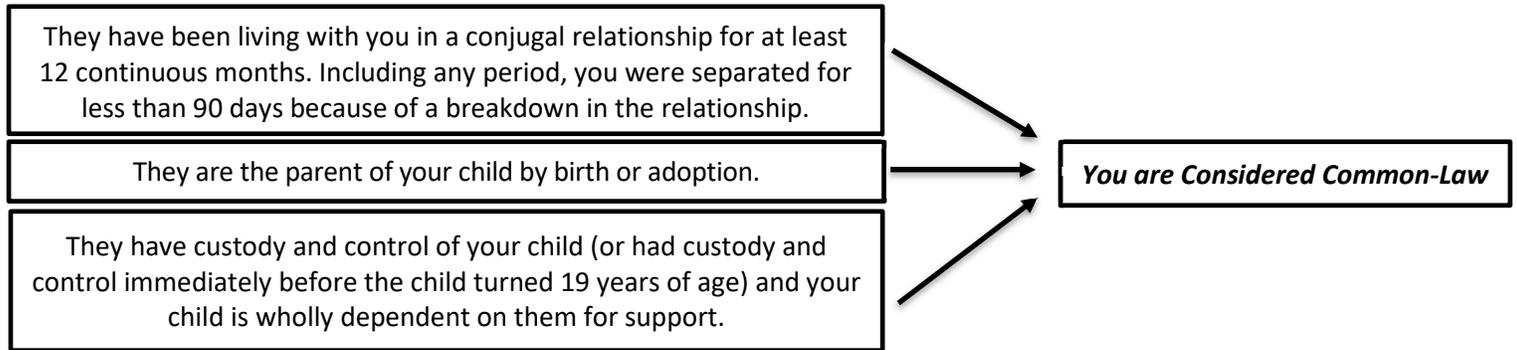


## How to Tell if You Are Considered Common-Law

“Living common-law” means you are living with a person who is **not your spouse**, but with whom you have a conjugal relationship, and to whom at least **one** of the following situations applies:



**If you are still unsure, ask yourself the following questions:**

- 1) Shelter:
  - a. Did the parties live under the same roof?
  - b. What were the sleeping arrangements?
  - c. Did anyone else occupy or share the available accommodation?
- 2) Personal Behaviour:
  - a. Did the parties have a conjugal relationship?
  - b. Did they maintain an attitude of fidelity to each other?
  - c. What were their feelings toward each other?
  - d. Did they communicate on a personal level?
  - e. Did they eat their meals together?
  - f. What, if anything, did they do to assist each other with problems or during illness?
  - g. Did they buy gifts for each other on special occasions?
- 3) Services - What was the conduct and habit of the parties in relation to:
  - a. Preparation of meals,
  - b. Washing and mending clothes,
  - c. Shopping,
  - d. Household maintenance,
  - e. Any other domestic services?
- 4) Social:
  - a. Did they participate together or separately in neighbourhood and community activities?
  - b. What was the relationship and conduct of each of them towards members of their respective families and how did such families behave towards the parties?
- 5) Societal:
  - a. What was the attitude and conduct of the community towards each of them and as a couple?
- 6) Economic/ Support
  - a. What were the financial arrangements between the parties regarding the provision of or contribution towards the necessities of life (food, clothing, shelter, recreation, etc.)?
  - b. What were the arrangements concerning the acquisition and ownership of property?
  - c. Was there any special financial arrangement between them which both agreed would be determinant of their overall relationship?
- 7) Children:
  - a. What was the attitude and conduct of the parties concerning children?