

## Your Legal Questions

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**Q: My partner with whom I am living are planning on getting married. I have inherited a large sum from my grandmother and I used the inheritance to buy the house in which we live and have no mortgage. The house is in my sole name. My partner has said that she won't make a claim against the house if something went wrong in our relationship. Should I have a pre-nuptial agreement?**

**A:** A high profile divorce case of Radmacher and Granatino has set a new legal precedent for pre-nuptial agreements after judges decided that pre-nuptial agreements should be taken into account during financial proceedings in divorces.

In your case it seems that your partner would be prepared to agree to enter into such an agreement that could be drawn up simply dealing with your partner not making any claim against your house and/or your inheritance.

There now appears to be a clear trend that significant weight is to be attached to pre-nuptial agreements. Although this decision does not go so far as to lead to such agreements being automatically binding they may well be treated as highly influential subject to a single overriding safeguard of significant injustice.

The cost of preparing a pre-nuptial agreement is minimal compared with the financial protections and benefits that you will get from a properly drawn-up prenuptial agreement. The greater your wealth, the greater the importance of getting independent professional legal advice.