

The [Bolt Burdon](#) Private Client Bulletin

And so to prove the point

The Civil Partnership Act was always billed as achieving exactly the same rights for same sex couples as those enjoyed by married couples.

A lesbian couple could become the first to test the Act by divorcing after registering their civil partnership just three months ago.

That said, they were advised by their solicitors they could have a long wait as couples cannot terminate their partnership until it has been in existence for at least a year.

The acrimony is based upon an alleged relationship with one of the “wedding” guests. Significantly, and in contrast to marriage, adultery is not recognised as grounds for ending a civil partnership, though unreasonable behaviour can be cited.

If the couple now go their separate ways they face the prospect of dividing their joint assets, in a manner which mirrors divorce. This entails the court looking at the assets that existed when they began their relationship. There will also be a presumption that assets built up during the relationship will be equally divided, even if one partner earned much more than the other.

If you have any queries you can phone or email Glenn Smyth or Rod Smith on glennsmyth@boltburdon.co.uk or rodsmith@boltburdon.co.uk or phone 020 7288 4700.

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