

Significant personal relationships

Anyone can talk to a lawyer for free at Tasmania Legal Aid.

To get free legal information call 1300 366 611, drop into an office (no appointment necessary) or use the Legal Talk chat function on our website. We are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

A lawyer can listen to your story and help identify the next steps you can take.

A couple may register their relationship in Tasmania.

How do I register a personal relationship in Tasmania?

Two adults who live in Tasmania, who are not married or not already a party to a deed of relationship, may register their [significant or caring relationship](#) by lodging an application with the [Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages](#). The application is sworn by each party, verifying that they consent to the registration, that they are not married, and that they are not a party to another deed of relationship. Each party must also provide [proof of identification and age](#). If registering a caring relationship, a [certificate of independent legal advice](#) will also need to be obtained from a lawyer. A [fee](#) must be paid when lodging the application.

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages will register the deed of relationship 28 days after it is lodged. The Registrar will not register the deed if either party is married or is a party to another deed of relationship.

What does a deed of relationship do?

Once a deed of relationship is registered, the parties are taken to be in a personal relationship and are subject to the legal rights and obligations associated with that. This means, for example, that if the relationship breaks down, the parties can negotiate a property settlement and may be liable for maintenance.

When will a deed of relationship end?

A deed of relationship will be automatically revoked if either party marries or dies. It may also be revoked by either or both parties applying to the Registrar for revocation, or by court order. The Registrar will revoke a deed of relationship 90 days after the [application for revocation](#) is lodged, unless the application is withdrawn.

Where can I find out more?

[Registrar of Births, Deaths, Marriages](#)

This is written for people who live in or who are affected by the laws of Tasmania, Australia. The law changes all the time – this information is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should talk to a lawyer before making a decision about what to do.