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## NEW LAWS

### De facto lovers rush to protect assets

Relationships are now trickier after recent amendments to the Family Law Act redefining what it means to be a de facto couple.

The new laws define a de facto relationship as a couple - regardless of sexual orientation - who live together on a genuine domestic basis but are not legally married to each other.

Brisbane North Family Law Services principal Clarissa Rayward said the changes had led to more inquiries from people uncertain of how their relationship would be classified.

Rayward said some people were worried the wealth they accumulated before the relationship would not be protected.

Many were parents who wanted to secure the assets of children from a past relationship.

Rayward suggested those people enter into binding financial agreements to gain legal certainty about who would get property and money in the event of a relationship breakdown.