SYNDICATE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

PALIMONY

Syndicate Legal Advisory Services – *Palimony*

SYNDICATE LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

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Palimony is the term used to describe the settlement of assets when an unmarried, cohabiting couple ends their relationship. It usually is based on verbal or written agreements made during the course of the relationship. Today, only the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah & Vermont have Palimony.

Fact: Palimony is NOT Family Law. For example, in the State of California Palimony was established in *Marvin v. Marvin* ((1976) 18 Cal.3d 660), where the California Supreme Court ruled that agreements between unmarried couples can be enforced, stating: "[A]dults who voluntarily live together and engage in sexual relations are nonetheless as competent as any other persons to contract respecting their earnings and property rights. . . . So long as the agreement does not rest upon illicit meretricious consideration, the parties may order their economic affairs as they choose, and no policy precludes the courts from enforcing such agreements." (18 Cal.3d at 674-675.) This decision has given rise to decades of litigation between former unmarried cohabitants.

It is also a fact that the numbers of marriages in the United States continues to drop, and today less people are getting married. Thus, there are now more unmarried couples than married couples, and very few of them have written **Cohabitation Agreements** which could prevent or limit Palimony Lawsuits.

Fun Fact: Cohabitation Agreements is a service covered by all Syndicate Subscription Legal Plans!

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