

## **PROVING COHABITATION FOR ALIMONY CASES**

Many people are aware that a remarriage can end a former spouse's alimony, but not everyone realizes that cohabiting after a divorce can also affect alimony.

In Pennsylvania unless specifically stated otherwise in the property settlement agreement or by order of the court, if the supported spouse begins cohabiting with a paramour, he or she is no longer eligible to receive alimony. Cohabitation means that two people are living together in a relationship similar to husband and wife. Having a boyfriend or girlfriend that one occasionally stays with doesn't qualify as cohabitation.

Courts are more likely to determine that two people are cohabiting if they share the same residence full-time, have a romantic or sexual relationship, and share finances similar to a married couple.

This is a particularly important issue given how many couples are choosing to live together rather than marry. The percentage of married households in the United States has fallen to a historic low; census data cited 48 percent of households in 2014 were married couples. The number of married households fell to 48 percent in 2014 from a high of about 72 percent in 1960.

Building a case that demonstrates cohabitation, one has to understand that this will take time. Gathering sound evidence to document the truth may be difficult and time consuming; especially knowing that the ex-spouse collecting the alimony will do their best to conceal this financially game changing information.

ELPS Private Detective Agency is a seasoned investigative firm that understands the complexity and specialized services needed in a cohabitation investigation. Our team will provide you with the highest degree of professionalism and experience that in turn results in a high degree of success. There are very few investigators that understand what is wanted by the courts. Our expertise with cohabitation cases provides you with the information needed to convince the Judge that your ex is cohabitating based on evidence NOT rumors.

Our reputation of reliability and integrity with insurance providers, law firms, corporations, business entities, and private individuals makes ELPS PDA a well-respected firm throughout the industry. We service Pennsylvania statewide from Philadelphia County to Erie County, all of New Jersey and can provide investigative services throughout the nation with a network of highly trained private investigators, investigative specialists and licensed associates. Our dedicated professional staff is here to serve all your investigative needs.

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