

WARNING: In an Emergency, Your "Partner" Is a Stranger

Imagine this: You are in a car accident. You are rushed to the ER, unconscious. Your partner of 15 years rushes to the hospital, terrified. They ask to see you. The nurse asks, "Are you family?" Your partner says, "We live together." The nurse shakes her head. "I'm sorry, immediate family only." Jos Family Law sees this nightmare scenario happen, and it is 100% preventable. If you are relying on the myth of "Common Law Marriage" to protect you, you are walking on a tightrope without a net.

You need to understand that **California Common Law Marriage** does not exist. In the eyes of the hospital, the bank, and the probate court, your unmarried partner is a legal stranger. They have no automatic right to make medical decisions for you. They have no automatic right to inherit your assets. If you die without a will, your partner gets zero. Nothing. Your house, your car, your savings—it all goes to your biological family, even if you haven't spoken to them in years. Your partner could be kicked out of the home you shared for a decade.

Do not wait for a tragedy to find out you have no rights. You need legal documents to fill the gap that the state refuses to fill. You need an Advance Health Care Directive so your partner can talk to the doctors. You need a durable power of attorney so they can pay the bills if you are incapacitated. You need a will or trust to ensure they aren't left destitute. These are not just papers; they are shields that protect the person you love from a system that doesn't recognize them.

This isn't about romance; it's about risk management. If you aren't going to get a marriage license, you *must* get a legal portfolio. Otherwise, you are letting the state decide your future, and the state does not care about your relationship. The state follows a flowchart, and your partner isn't on it.

Secure your partner's rights before the emergency happens. Don't leave your life in the hands of strangers. Act now to define your own family structure.

To build your legal safety net today, call Jos Family Law.
<https://josfamilylaw.com/>