

Civil Partnerships and Housing & Council Tax Benefit

With effect from 5th December 2005, the Civil Partnership act comes in to force. This will enable same sex couples to obtain legal recognition for their relationship.

As a result of this change in the law, the way that we deal with your Housing and Council Tax Benefit claim will also change...



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...This means that same sex couples, who have formed a civil partnership or who are living together as if they were civil partners, will be treated in the same way as opposite sex couples who are married or are living together as husband and wife. Some people, who currently claim benefits as a single person, will have to re-claim as part of a couple. You can do this by contacting us or by visiting your local area office. Anyone claiming benefit on or after 5th December 2005 must tell us if they are living with their same sex partner.

From 5th December, failure to inform us that you are **forming a Civil Partnership or are living together as partners** could mean that your Housing & Council Tax Benefit is overpaid and you may be asked to repay it.

If you need more advice or information, you can call us on **020 7525 1880**. Alternatively, you can write to us at The Benefit Department, PO Box 782, Bromley, BR1 3YE or visit our website www.southwark.gov.uk

If you would like more information about registering a Civil Partnership in Southwark, you can call us on **020 7525 7651** ...or visit our website.