

Civil Partnership - “gay marriage” in all but name?

	Marriage	Civil Partnership	Same?	
Eligibility requirements	One man and one woman	Two men/two women	✗	1.
	Neither party is in an existing marriage	Neither party is in an existing marriage (or partnership)	✓	2.
	Not closely related ('prohibited degrees')	Not closely related ('prohibited degrees')	✓	3.
	Over 16 years old (parental consent required for under 18s)	Over 16 years old (parental consent required for under 18s)	✓	4.
Registration	At Registry Office	At Registry Office	✓	5.
	Must give 15 clear days notice	Must give 15 clear days notice	✓	6.
	Register is signed in presence of registrar and two witnesses	Register is signed in presence of registrar and two witnesses	✓	7.
	Must repeat statutory wording in presence of registrar and two witnesses	Not known	?	8.
	Legal definition says “life-long”	Consultation paper says “long term” and “intended to be permanent”	✗	9.
	Legal definition says is “exclusive”.	No requirement of exclusivity.	✗	10.
Dissolution	Can dissolve the marriage for adultery	No express provision for adultery. (Although should be possible under “unreasonable behaviour” provisions in certain circumstances.)	✗	11.
	Can dissolve the marriage for desertion.	No express provision for desertion. (Although should be possible under “unreasonable behaviour” provisions in certain circumstances.)	✗	12.
	Can dissolve the marriage after two years separation where both parties consent.	Can dissolve the partnership after two years separation where both parties consent.	✓	13.
	Can dissolve the marriage after five years separation where the other party does not consent.	Can dissolve the partnership after five years separation where the other party does not consent.	✓	14.

	Can dissolve the marriage for “unreasonable behaviour”	Can dissolve the partnership for “unreasonable behaviour”	✓	15.
Benefits while the relationship subsists	Joint treatment for income related benefits	Joint treatment for income related benefits	✓	16.
	Joint treatment for joint state pension benefits	Joint treatment for joint state pension benefits	✓	17.
	Ability to gain parental responsibility for each other’s children	Ability to gain parental responsibility for each other’s children`	✓	18.
	Recognition for immigration purposes	Recognition for immigration purposes	✓	19.
	Recognition as next of kin	Recognition as next of kin	✓	20.
	Exemption from testifying against each other in court.	Exemption from testifying against each other in court.	✓	21.
Consequences on death	Right to register death of spouse	Right to register death of partner	✓	22.
	Right to claim survivor pension	Right to claim survivor pension	✓	23.
	Eligibility for bereavement benefits	Eligibility for bereavement benefits	✓	24.
	Compensation for fatal accidents	Compensation for fatal accidents	✓	25.
	Compensation for criminal injuries	Compensation for criminal injuries	✓	26.
	Recognition under inheritance rules	Recognition under inheritance rules	✓	27.
	Recognition under intestacy rules	Recognition under intestacy rules	✓	28.
	Tenancy succession rights	Tenancy succession rights	✓	29.