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Customer Counter open Monday to Friday
See our website: www.angliarevenues.gov.uk

If you prefer independent advice why not contact:

- Welfare Rights Officer
- any Advice Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau or Law Centre.

hb30.pub

Anglia Revenues Partnership



Couples

New Rules from December 2005



Housing and Council Tax Advice
Leaflet

The benefit regulations state that married couples or people who live together as husband and wife need to notify their benefit authority and claim as a couple.

New benefit regulations from 5th December 2005 introduced an additional definition of a couple to include same-sex partners who enter a civil partnership or live together.

Therefore where couples live together, both their incomes and circumstances will be taken into account when calculating how much benefit they are entitled to.

You will be treated as a couple if you enter a civil partnership, are married or live together as partners.

What do I need to do?

If you are living together with a partner then you must inform us as quickly as possible. If you fail to do so then there may be a change in your benefit. If it results in too much being paid we may take the decision to recover it. If there is an underpayment, you may lose the money.

What will happen to my benefit?

Once we get all the information we need, we will calculate your new benefit. If the benefit entitlement changes, payments will be issued as soon as practicable.

Will the Council tell anyone about my relationship?

The information that you give us is treated sensitively and the City Council takes its responsibilities under the Data Protection Act very seriously. We will not discuss your circumstances with anyone unless you have given us your express permission to do so.

There are some circumstances where information is released but only to other Government Departments or to other local authorities and only so far as the law allows.