

What is the definition of a spouse or a marriage-like relationship?

Unmarried couples are considered spouses if they meet either of the following criteria:

- 1) demonstrate qualities consistent with a marriage-like relationship while residing together for 12 consecutive months, or
- 2) if they declare that they are in a marriage-like relationship.

Married couples who can demonstrate they have separated are exempted from being considered spouses. Separated means that they have legally separated, in divorce proceedings, severed financial interdependence or social and familial interdependence, etc.