

COMMON LAW MARRIAGE

THE MYTH: There is a common misperception that if you live together for a certain length of time (seven years is what many people believe), you are common-law married. This is not true anywhere in the United States.

STATES THAT RECOGNIZE COMMON LAW MARRIAGE:
Only a [few states who continue to recognize common law marriages](#):

Alabama (If created before 1/1/2017)
[Colorado](#)
Georgia (if created before 1/1/97)
Florida (if created before 1/1/68)
Idaho (if created before 1/1/96)
[Iowa](#)
Indiana (if created before 1/1/1958)
[Kansas](#)
[Montana](#)
[New Hampshire](#) (for probate purposes only)
Ohio (if created before 10/10/91)
[Oklahoma](#) (possibly only if created before 11/1/98).
Pennsylvania (if created before 1/1/05)
[Rhode Island](#)
[Texas](#)
[Utah](#) (if validated by court)
[Washington, D.C.](#)

IF YOU LIVE IN A STATE THAT DOES NOT RECOGNIZE COMMON LAW MARRIAGE, there is no way to form a common law marriage, no longer how long you live with your partner. There is one catch: if you spend time in a state that does recognize common law marriage, “hold yourself out as married”, and then return or move to a state that doesn’t recognize it, you are still married (since states all recognize marriages that occurred in other states). However, this is murky legal territory and we don’t recommend experimenting with it!

(Source: [Wikipedia](#) last updated on January 13, 2022)