

Adult interdependent relationships

An **adult interdependent relationship**, or **AIR**, is a relationship of commitment and permanence between two unmarried people. It doesn't have to be a romantic or sexual relationship.

AIRs are unique to Alberta and are defined in the *Adult Interdependent Relationships Act*.

The people in an AIR are known as **adult interdependent partners**, or **AIPs**.

When an AIR exists

Adult interdependent relationships exist in three situations:

1. Two people have signed an Adult Interdependent Partner Agreement.
2. Two people have lived together in a relationship of interdependence for three or more years.
3. Two people live together in a relationship of interdependence and have a child together, by birth or adoption.

A "**relationship of interdependence**" exists where two people share one another's lives, are emotionally committed to one another and share their home and finances.

YOU CAN BE AN AIP EVEN IF

- you are married to someone else but are living with a new partner
- you are under 18 years old
- you are related by blood or adoption to your partner
- you are not in a romantic or sexual relationship with the person you are living with

YOU CANNOT BE AN AIP

- if you are already an AIP to someone else
- if you are married and living with your spouse
- to someone for whom you provide live-in domestic support and personal care for payment

Rights and responsibilities of AIPs

Adult interdependent partners have rights, benefits and responsibilities similar to married or divorced couples.

For example:

- AIPs can register together for coverage under the **Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan**.
- When an AIP dies, the surviving partner may be entitled to certain benefits.
- An AIP's **Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped**, or AISH, benefits are available to their partner.
- If an AIP **dies without a Will**, their partner may receive all or part of their estate. The estate may also have to provide for the surviving partner.
- A former AIP can apply for **partner support** under Alberta's *Family Law Act* within two years of the relationship ending.
- Former AIPs **divide their assets and debts** according to Alberta's *Family Property Act* when the relationship ends.
- If an AIP makes a Will and then the relationship ends, their former partner may no longer be entitled to receive any gifts under the Will or to act as the personal representative.
- AIPs can apply for a **protection order** if their partner is causing them harm.

DID YOU KNOW?

People often use the term "common law" to describe a couple that lives together, with or without children, but is not married. The Canadian government, other provinces, benefits plans and more recognize common law relationships. But Alberta uses the term "adult interdependent relationship".

Make an AIP Agreement

An **Adult Interdependent Partner Agreement** is a written document that confirms the people named in it are in an adult interdependent relationship. It must be in the form set out by the government.

An Adult Interdependent Partner Agreement is **necessary** if two people are related by blood or adoption. Both people must also be 18 years old to become AIPs.

An Adult Interdependent Partner Agreement ends when the AIR ends.

AN AGREEMENT IS NOT VALID IF

- one partner is being forced or pressured into signing it
- one person does not have capacity to understand what they are agreeing to
- the partners are not yet living together and do not intend to live together when they sign it
- one partner has signed an Adult Interdependent Partner Agreement with someone else
- one partner is legally married
- one partner is a minor **unless** they are at least 16 years old, their guardians give written consent and they are not related to the other partner by blood or adoption



**Want to make an Adult Interdependent Partner Agreement?
Use our template to get started!**

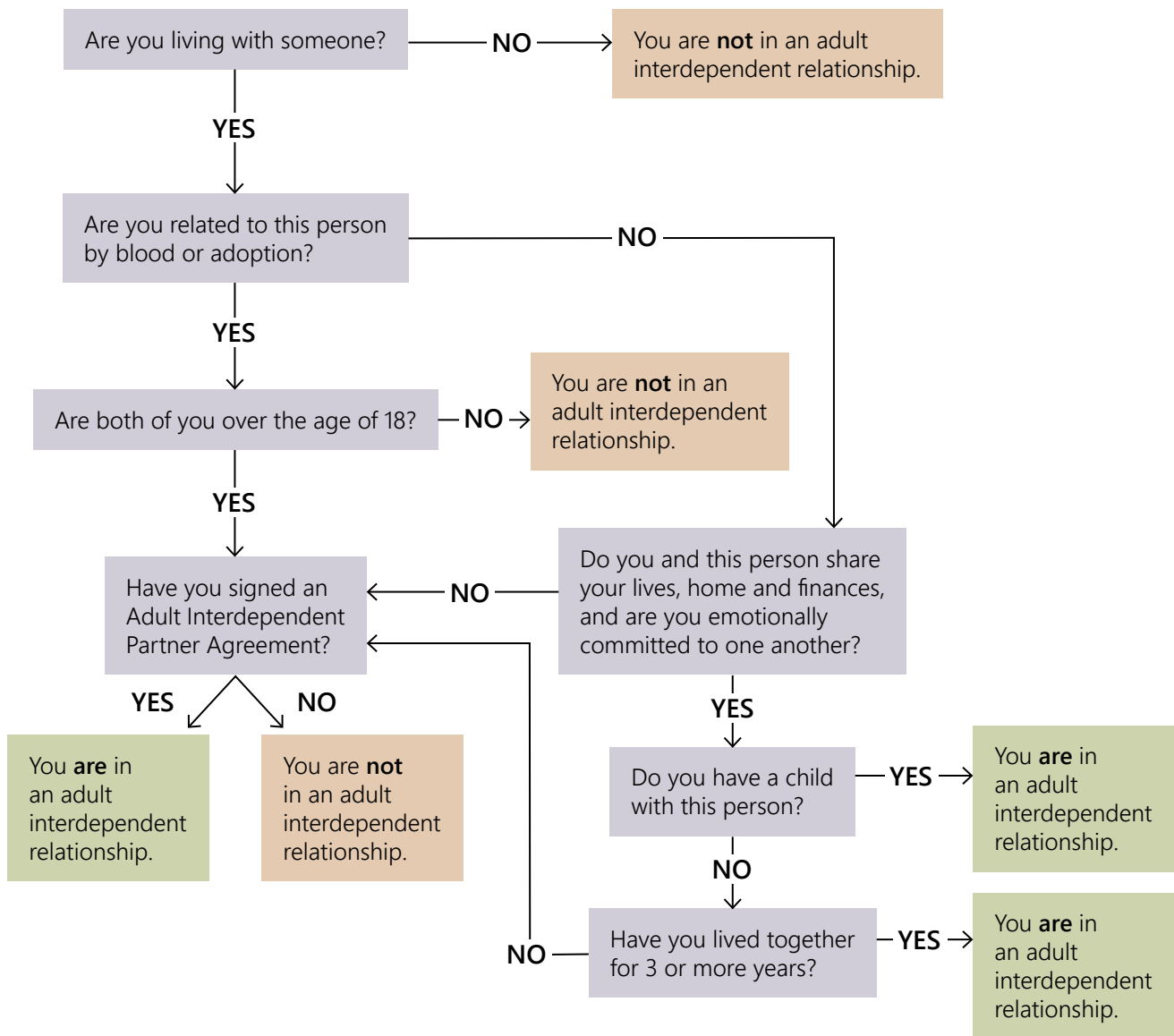
Visit family.cplea.ca/adult-interdependent-partner-agreement/ or capture the QR code.

When an AIR ends

An AIR ends if one of the following happens:

- you and your partner make a written agreement that says the relationship is over, that you intend to live separate and apart and that there is no possibility of reconciliation
- you and your partner live separate and apart for one year, and one or both of you intends that the relationship is over
- you marry each other or one of you marries someone else
- you or your partner did not sign an Adult Interdependent Partner Agreement but one of you signs one with someone else
- one or both of you get a **declaration of irreconcilability** under the *Family Law Act*

Are you in an adult interdependent relationship?



Visit CPLEA's website about family law in Alberta!

Find more information about adult interdependent relationships and what happens if one ends.

Get started at family.cplea.ca