

Case Study: First meetings – Cohabitation Cases

- Rebecca has booked an appointment with your firm.
- She has been in relationship with Peter for 15 years. They have two children who are 6 years old and 8 years old.
- Peter runs a building company. Rebecca has a minority shareholding in this company and is an employee of the company.
- The family home is a large four bed property which is owned in Peter's sole name. Peter purchased this property before he met Rebecca and solely meets all the household expenses.
- Peter owns two other properties in his sole name. They are rented out. Rebecca invested some money into these properties. Rebecca was told by Peter that the rent for these properties would be placed into a joint account, but she does not have access to this account.
- On top of her income from the company (which is modest), Peter pays Rebecca a monthly allowance.
- Peter returned home last week and told Rebecca to leave. He told her to leave the children behind.
- Rebecca is afraid of Peter. 5 years ago, he came back from the pub drunk and shoved her. He has a very short fuse and has been verbally abusive to her during the course of their relationship.
- The parties have lived comfortably with foreign holidays each year. Peter has just bought himself a new car.
- Rebecca does not have any savings.
- She needs urgent advice about whether she can stay in the family home with the children. She also needs advice about her rights to property, financial support, child maintenance and contact arrangements for the children.