

NHS Pensions - Civil Partnership Act

The Civil Partnership Act came into effect on 5 December 2005. It allows same sex couples to register a civil partnership, giving legal recognition of their relationship, and rights and obligations similar to those of married couples.

The adult dependant's pension for a registered civil partner is half the members pension based on membership from 6 April 1988 only. Any member of the 1995 Section of the NHS Pension Scheme with membership before 6 April 1988 had a time limited opportunity to buy an increased adult dependant's pension for their registered civil partner; this option was available until 30 June 2009.

In the event of an NHS pensioner forming a registered civil partnership after they have claimed their NHS benefits, they are requested to write and inform NHS Pensions, enclosing their original civil partnership certificate or a copy that has been certified by a Solicitor or a Commissioner of Oaths as a true copy of the original.

We will then confirm the potential adult dependant's pension due to their civil partner and notify our paying agent.

If the Scheme member retired before 1 April 2008, an adult dependant's pension will be withdrawn if they:

- Re-marry
- Live in partnership with someone else in a relationship either akin to marriage or a civil partnership
- They form a new civil partnership.

For retirements after 1 April 2008, the adult dependant's pension is paid for life regardless of the civil partner's living arrangements.