Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
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Archived: June 3, 2025 10:33:52 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Tue, 29 Apr 2025 13:33:01
To:
Cc: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Subject: FW: Common Law question - [redacted] programs - REP-B-2025-0459 - Due 21-May-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None

Good day,
[redacted] **Immigration Representatives Mailbox.**
Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries but have provided the following information as guidance. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit the IRCC Web form.
Please see our response to your question.
***
To be considered in a common-law relationship, a person has to be living together in a conjugal relationship with another person and has been doing so continuously for a period of at least one year in the recent past. Once common-law partners have lived together continuously for one year, it is possible to live separately for periods of time and still be considered common-law partners as long as the conjugal relationship is maintained. For example, common-law partners who are unable to live together because of legal restrictions in their home country or who have been separated for reasons beyond their control (e.g. civil war or armed conflict) may still qualify and included on the application along with an explanation and proof of their circumstances. Common-law partnership is considered to be ended when the conjugal relationship ends.

Please note that we do not respond to case specific questions. Each case will be assessed by an officer considering the particular circumstances in conjunction with the supporting documentation available to them. The onus is always on the applicant to provide sufficient documentation to satisfy an officer that they meet the requirements of the program they are applying under.

We trust that this information will assist you.

***

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 18, 2025 5:39 PM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Subject: Common Law question - federal economic programs

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s.19(1)

Good day,

In the context of federal economic programs, once candidates establish common-law by living in a marriage-like relationship for 12 months, can they later be living separately and still apply together for PR as a couple?
Does physical separation has to be short-term and should reasons by justified?

Or once common-law is established, the relationship is valid until it breaks down?

What are the official guidelines?

[redacted]