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Archived: June 3, 2025 9:15:35 AM
From: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC)
Sent: Tue, 8 Apr 2025 14:16:24
To:
Cc: [redacted] Representatives / Représentants immigration [redacted]
Subject: FW: Clarification on Common-Law Relationship Date in Immigration Forms - REP-A-2025-0682 - Due 10-Apr-25
Importance: Normal
Sensitivity: None
Attachments:
~WRD0000.jpg;

Good day,

[redacted] **Representatives Mailbox.**

Please note that this mailbox is intended for general guidance and does not provide responses to case-specific inquiries. If you have case specific questions about a file, you are encouraged to submit a Webform at:

http://www.ircc.canada.ca/english/contacts/web-form.asp

We would like to acknowledge the receipt of your inquiry. We are currently in the process of reviewing our guides and are looking into addressing this inconsistency.

In the meantime, we recommend following the instructions in the guides as they are currently written.

When assessing common-law relationships, officers generally complete a global review of the information provided, including information declared on forms (e.g. IMM1344, IMM008, IMM5532); Statutory Declaration of Common-law Union and other supporting documents. Should the officer require more information or have any questions regarding the dates of a relationship they may also request additional information from the applicant.

We hope you find this information useful.

[redacted]

The Immigration Representatives Mailbox

From:
Sent: [redacted] 28, 2025 12:52 AM
To: Immigration Representatives / Représentants immigration (IRCC) <IRCC.ImmigrationRepresentatives-Representantsimmigration.IRCC[redacted]
Subject: Clarification on Common-Law Relationship Date in Immigration Forms

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Dear Sir or Madam,

[redacted] consultant in

I would like to clarify which date should be listed for a common-law relationship in immigration forms, particularly in a spousal sponsorship application or applications for Permanent Residence such as Express Entry.

The instructions for filling out form IMM1344, question 8 - regarding MARITAL STATUS specify:

a. *Enter the date (year, month, day) you were married or you entered into your current common-law or conjugal relationship, i.e. the date your status officially changed from being single to common-law, not the date you started living together.*

(Guide: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/application-forms-guides/imm1344.html)

However, it is unclear whether this same approach applies to other forms in the application, **such as IMM0008, where an applicant could argue that they ENTERED a CL relationship when they started living together.**

Additionally, **in Express Entry applications, forms explicitly instruct applicants to list "the date you started living together," which may not always align with the date they legally met the common-law definition.**

Through discussions with professional colleagues, I have encountered different interpretations:

- Some list the date the couple started living together.
- Others list the date exactly 12 months after cohabitation began.

Could you please clarify:

- Should the same approach outlined in IMM1344 apply to all forms in a spousal sponsorship application?
- Should Express Entry applicants follow the explicit instruction in Express Entry forms to list "the date you started living together," even if it differs from the date they became common-law?
- Would IRCC consider making this distinction clearer in official guides?

I appreciate your time and guidance on this matter.

Best regards,

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