

## Legal protection of factual relationship: is marriage necessary to create a family?

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### Abstract

In Kosovo, the number of people who choose out-of-marriage relationships as an alternative way of family-making is increasing. But, there are also many couples who have a traditional or religious ceremony without finalizing their relationship through formal civil marriage. Today, cohabitation has almost the same legal protection as marriage has, hence it is an option without many obligations and formalities, but it is adequately protected. Therefore, this research will explain the cases in which out-of-marriage relationship has legal effects. Which are the content and the main elements of factual relationship? Furthermore, special attention was given to the comparison of cohabitation and marriage, finding their similarities and differences. Finally, we have also presented the legal ways of ending the factual relationship.

**Keywords:** out-of-marriage relationship, marriage, institution, dissolution of the factual relationship.

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