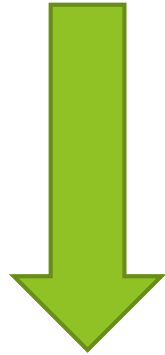


Common law marriage  
has not existed since  
1753

- ▶ Historically, marriages were a means for ancient societies to handle the granting of property rights and protect bloodlines.
- ▶ Nowadays similar rights are still available in marriage but there is the misconception that there exist the same protections for a “common law spouse”.

- ▶ The Office for National Statistics figures reflect the increasing shift away from marriage to cohabitation.

# Cohabiting Couples

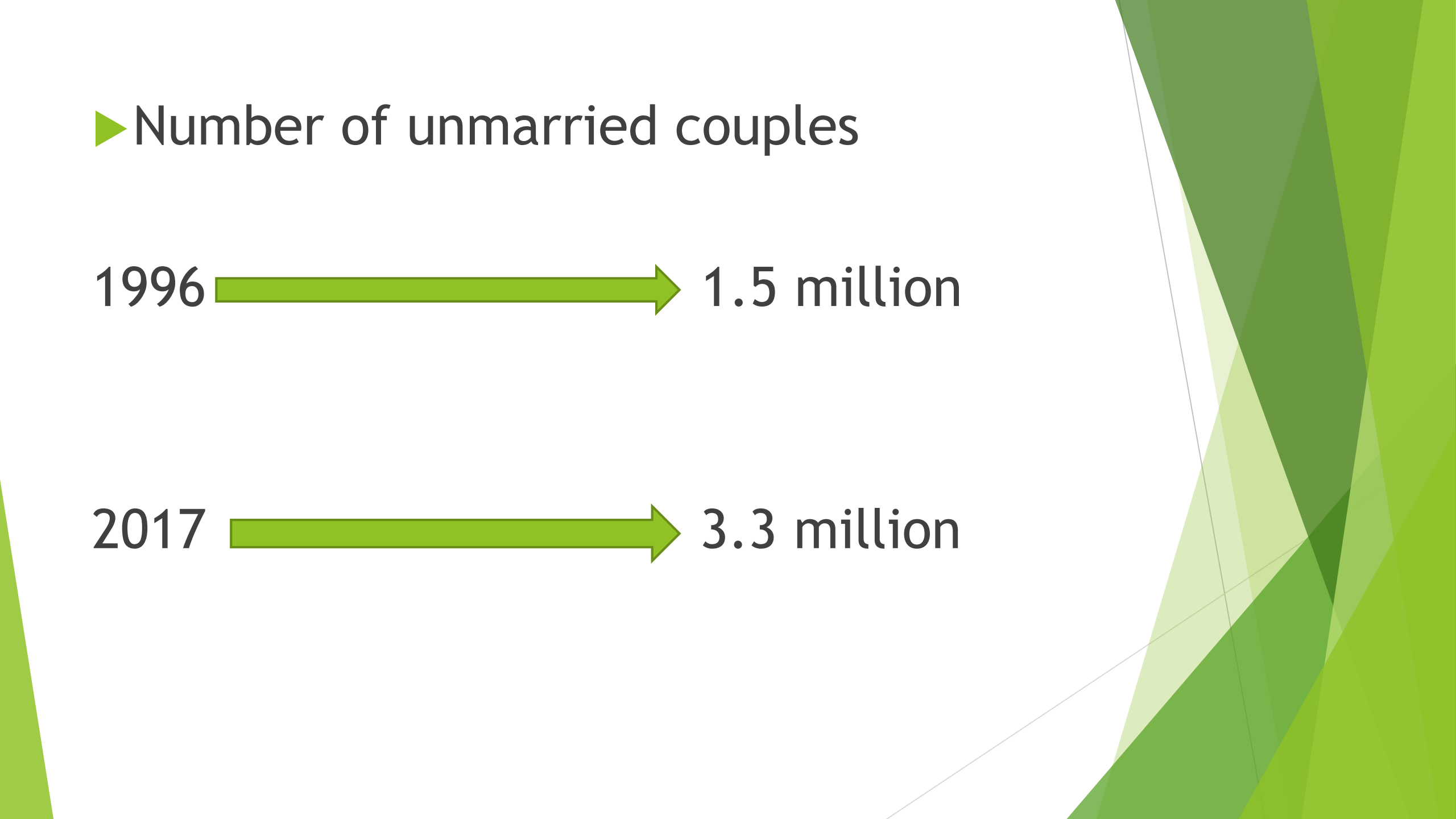


## Second Largest Family Type

▶ Number of unmarried couples

1996 → 1.5 million

2017 → 3.3 million



▶ The Problem is .....

According to a survey carried out by Resolution 2/3 of cohabiting couples believe that “common law marriage” laws exist when dividing up finances.

# The reality.....

If a cohabiting partner dies without a will, the other partner will not automatically inherit anything

Married Partners would inherit all or some of the state



```
graph LR; A([Unmarried couples who do not participate in the mortgage cannot make claims on the property]) --> B([Married partners have rights over the matrimonial home]);
```

Unmarried couples who do not participate in the mortgage cannot make claims on the property

Married partners have rights over the matrimonial home



Cohabiting couples cannot access their partner's bank account if they die

The diagram consists of two green ovals connected by a horizontal arrow pointing from left to right. The left oval contains text about cohabiting couples, and the right oval contains text about married couples. The background features abstract green geometric shapes on the right side.

Married couples may be allowed to withdraw the balance if it is small

Unmarried couples can separate without going to court

The diagram consists of two green ovals connected by a horizontal arrow pointing from left to right. The left oval contains the text 'Unmarried couples can separate without going to court'. The right oval contains the text 'Married couples need to go to court to obtain a divorce to end the marriage'. The background features abstract green geometric shapes on the right side.

Married couples need to go to court to obtain a divorce to end the marriage

Cohabiting couples are not legally obliged to support each other financially

The diagram consists of two green ovals connected by a horizontal arrow pointing from left to right. The left oval contains the text 'Cohabiting couples are not legally obliged to support each other financially'. The right oval contains the text 'Married partners have a legal duty to support each other'. The background features abstract green geometric shapes on the right side.

Married partners have a legal duty to support each other

Know your Rights.....

We will aim to advise you of the necessary steps to protect your rights in this presentation.....