

# pensions bulletin

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## Survivors' pensions for same sex couples

December 21st was an important milestone for same sex couples, as the law changed allowing them to 'tie the knot' in a civil ceremony, not unlike a register office wedding, and become civil partners. This opens the door to a range of rights, for example property rights, the same exemption as married couples on inheritance tax, social security – and most importantly from our point of view - pension benefits too.

If you are a member of Greater Manchester Pension Fund and you have a same sex partner, then registering your partnership could entitle your other half to a pension if you die first – something they wouldn't otherwise be entitled to.

But watch out - your partner would only get a pension if you left **after** 5 April 1988, since only membership after this date can count towards civil partners' pensions.

We have produced a helpful booklet called *Civil Partnerships & your pension* - to get a copy please phone or email us, or you can view a copy on our website.



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