

**Civil Liability Act 1961** which is an act to reform the law relating to civil liability, providing in particular for the survival of causes of action on death, for proceedings against and contribution between concurrent wrongdoers and for liability in cases of contributory negligence, to provide for damages for the benefit of the dependants of any person fatally injured by the wrongful act, neglect or default of another, and to provide for other matters connected with the foregoing. [17th August, 1961.]

Section 47 (1) of Civil Liability Act 1961 as amended by the Civil Liability (Amendment) Act 1996 and the Civil Partnership and Certain Right and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010:

‘dependant’ means, in respect of a deceased person whose death is caused by a wrongful act—

(a) a spouse, parent, grandparent, step-parent, child, grandchild, step-child, brother, sister, half-brother or half-sister of the deceased,

(b) a person whose marriage to the deceased has been dissolved by a decree of divorce that was granted under the Family Law (Divorce) Act, 1996 or under the law of a country or jurisdiction other than the State and is recognised in the State, or

(c) [ **a person who was not married to or a civil partner of the deceased but who, until the date of the deceased’s death, had been living with the deceased as the deceased’s cohabitant within the meaning of section 172 of the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010 for a continuous period of not less than three years**]\*,

who has suffered injury or mental distress as a result of the death.

**\*[ ] Words in brackets substituted by section 204 of the Civil Partnership and Certain Right and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010**