# Tinsley v Milligan [1994]

A case about co-ownership of property purchased in equal parts.

#### Evidence

The parties in the conflict, Ms. Tinsley and Ms. Milligan, bought a house for cohabitation. The property was used as a lodging house to provide some income for both of them. Despite the fact that they intended to be co-owners of the property, the estate had been registered only in Tinsley's name. When Milligan made a claim for the benefits, her partner was aware of the claim. When Tinsley tried to evict her partner from the premises, Milligan claimed half of the property shares.

## Problematics

Tinsley insisted that she was the legal owner of the property, and that consequently the benefits should belong only to her. She also claimed that Milligan could not legally receive benefits from the property because of her unlawful conduct. Milligan claimed that she had partially paid for the house and thus could rightfully claim her interest, despite her unlawful conduct. As she had contributed to purchasing the estate, Milligan had established trust that could help accumulate interest.

### Resolution

The court held for Ms. Milligan, who got half of the shares in the house she had co-purchased. The verdict was justified by her legal contribution to the purchase in question and that the unlawful claim did not undermine that interest. The two parties had had a common understanding that they would own the property in equal shares.

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