

## **JULES ET GYM**

### **General Information**

#### **Background**

Jules et Gym is a 'boutique' Gym located in a wealthy part of London. It was started six years ago by Jules Morgan with the help of his partner, Alex. Jules and Alex lived together for some eight years during which time Alex became ill and Jules spent a lot of his time caring for Alex as well as running the fitness Gym. He took Alex on holidays abroad and paid for expensive medication in an effort to give Alex a better quality of life. It had a beneficial effect and Alex's health has improved significantly over this past two years.

Unfortunately Jules and Alex separated last year and Jules has been living alone and running the gym, which has become very successful due to his uninterrupted attention.

A few weeks ago Jules received a letter from a solicitor stating that Alex wanted payment of half the value of the gym, estimated at £500,000. This came as a real shock and Jules became very upset. He felt unable to contact Alex direct and so engaged a lawyer to act on his behalf.

#### **The dispute**

£500,000 is a reasonable valuation of the business in its current state. Alex has made the claim on the grounds that s/he had responsibility for keeping the accounts and doing odd jobs as far as was possible (although health problems meant that there were long periods when Alex was unable to do much). However, throughout the time with Jules, Alex supported, advised and promoted Jules and the gym and Alex maintains that this was a real partnership in every sense. Alex asserts that it is only fair that this should be recognised and that half the value of the business would be appropriate.

Jules response has been emotional. He believes that he went far beyond what could be reasonably expected of him in caring for Alex for most of the eight years, to the detriment of the gym business. There were several occasions in that period when the business almost folded because Jules was not giving it the attention it needed. The client base reduced as more and more felt neglected and it has only been in this past year that the gym returned to a flourishing business.

Jules maintains that Alex had nothing to do with the business and is therefore not entitled to any payment. He sees this as vindictive and opportunistic because the business has become successful. This is the act of a spurned lover.

## **Attending the mediation**

Jules  
Lawyer

Alex  
Lawyer

Mediator

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