Rent Controls are very Different from the Forbidden Freeze

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When a couple go their separate ways, working out how to divide property can be the toughest decision of all, writes Gráinne Rothery.

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Lori Byrne (not her real name) split up with her partner of seven years in the spring. The pair are now facing an anxious time in their lives as an issue that they thought they had already settled is back on the agenda. Byrne and her ex-partner bought a property in 1987 and lived there until they divorced in 2013.

The couple have a 50/50 shareholding in the property and Byrne still lives there. If the couple decide to sell, the proceeds will be divided equally.

The couple were married and Byrne inherited the property when her husband died. Byrne has been renting the property since 1987 and has since purchased a new house.

She is now renting the property and Byrne has been asked to pay rent for the property.

"We always like to start with mediation, but that's not an option," Byrne says.

"We are currently in the process of selling the property and the price is not yet set," she adds.

"When you boil it down, the three possibilities are sale, buyout and holding it together. When we discussed the sale, we realised that it was not feasible," Byrne says.

"The tension is unbearable. We don't talk to each other, and we have a hard time at night when we do talk. Our relationship has broken down."