

# 8 NEW REASONS WHY YOU NEED A LEGAL PLAN

In this rapidly changing, increasingly complex world, **you need legal protection for one simple reason:** legal troubles can happen to anyone. We've all been there – you get caught speeding, a contractor ghosts you mid-remodel or true love doesn't work out. And when trouble happens, **ARAG® legal insurance protects.**

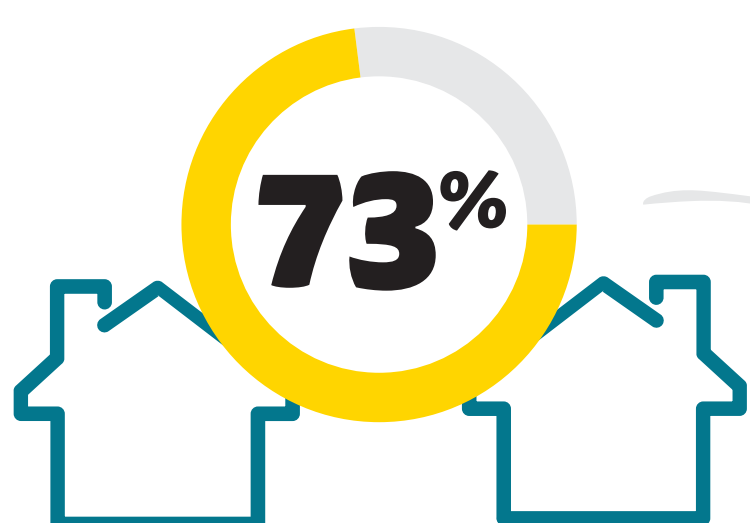
## 1. People are getting hammered by home contractors.

Reports involving home improvement contractors and repairmen have jumped to the **#2 most reported consumer complaint<sup>1</sup>**, as home improvement projects have **grown by 17%.<sup>2</sup>**



## 2. Love thy neighbor...not so much.

As more employees work from home, it opens the door to more frequent (and potentially contentious) interactions with neighbors. In fact, **73% of Americans dislike at least one of their neighbors**, and **23% of Americans have even called the police.<sup>3</sup>**



## 3. Renters are raising the roof – on conflict.

As home prices are poised to spike 7% in 2024,<sup>4</sup> **35% of American households rent versus own their homes.<sup>5</sup>** And with more people renting, the potential for landlord disputes also rises.



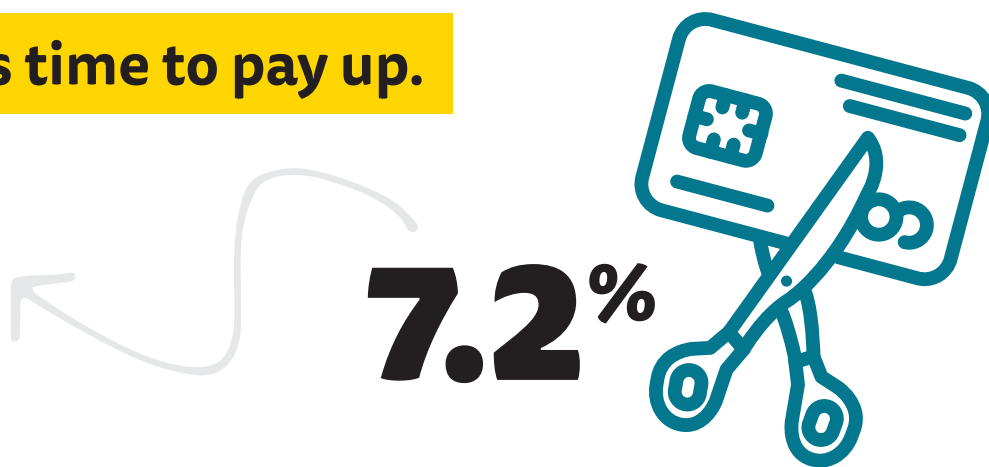
## 4. Pet custody – unleashed.

Nearly **1 in 5 households adopted a pet** during the pandemic,<sup>6</sup> and while the number of pet custody disputes is rising,<sup>7</sup> **51% of unmarried couples say they don't have a plan for their pet if they break up.<sup>8</sup>**



## 5. For many Americans, it's time to pay up.

New **credit card delinquencies have now surpassed pre-Covid levels**, rising to 7.2% in 2023.<sup>9</sup>



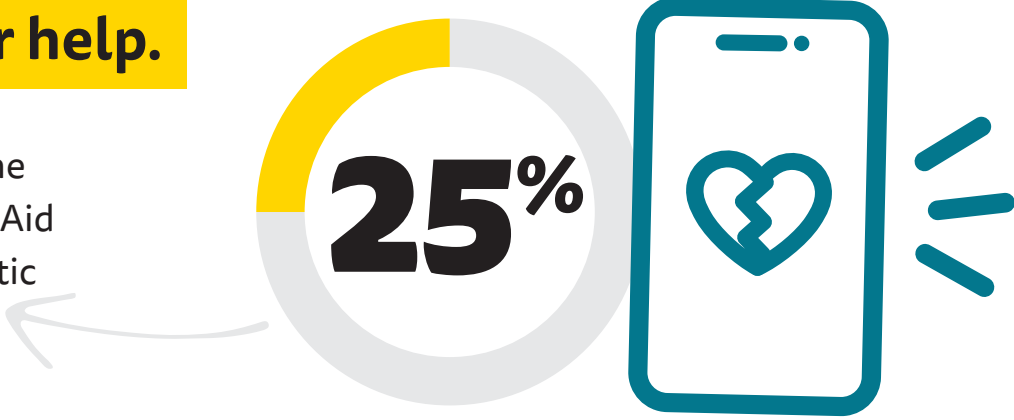
## 6. If it's broke, let's fix it.

**Total household debt** rose to more than \$17 trillion (with a "t") in 2023,<sup>10</sup> and personal bankruptcy filings rose 10%.<sup>11</sup>



## 7. People are calling out for help.

As the National Domestic Violence hotline has seen a **25% increase in calls<sup>12</sup>**, Legal Aid is struggling to meet the needs of domestic violence survivors.



## 8. More people are saying I do (not).

The number of unmarried millennial **couples living together has grown to 65%**, yet more than 1 in 3 cohabitating couples said they felt financially unequal in their relationship – and 29% wish they communicated their expectations before sharing a home.<sup>8</sup> All signs a cohabitation agreement would be helpful to have.



ARAG also helps with other legal needs like contract reviews or adding your newborn to your will. Work with a network attorney and attorney fees are **100% paid in full** for most covered matters.



Legal Insurance

For specific details about your plan and to view a complete list of coverages, visit [ARAGlegal.com/myinfo](https://ARAGlegal.com/myinfo) and enter your employer's access code. To talk with someone, call ARAG at **800-247-4184**.

<sup>1</sup>2022 Consumer Complaint Survey Report (consumerfed.org)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/mortgages/2022-home-improvement#:~:text=Home%20improvement%20projects%20and%20spending,53%20million%20of%20their%20projects>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.lendingtree.com/home/mortgage/neighbors-survey/>

<sup>4</sup><https://finance.yahoo.com/news/housing-market-may-even-more-011524093.html>

<sup>5</sup><https://propertymanagement.com/research/renters-vs-homeowners-statistics>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/new-aspc-a-survey-vast-majority-dogs-and-cats-acquired-during-pandemic-still-their-homes>

<sup>7</sup><https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/pet-custody-cases-rise-lawyers-say-1.6533847>

<sup>8</sup>Gen Z & Millennial Survey on Marriage and Living Together - New Statistics 2023 (thrivingcenterofpsych.com)

<sup>9</sup><https://finance.yahoo.com/news/york-fed-just-reported-credit-130000532.html#:~:text=Americans%20are%20falling%20behind%20on,Fed's%20latest%20quarterly%20debt%20report>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.newyorkfed.org/microeconomics/hhdc.html>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2023/07/31/bankruptcy-filings-rise-10-percent>

<sup>12</sup><https://www.foxnews.com/us/domestic-violence-rates-remain-high-three-years-record-spike-pandemic>