Without assuming prior legal knowledge, books in the Directions series introduce and guide readers through key points of law and legal debate. Questions, diagrams and exercises help readers to engage fully with each subject and check their understanding as they progress. The trust law that applies to family land might not be applicable to other types of land. Resulting trusts present a particular challenge in this regard. Although the doctrines of resulting trust have long been settled in the law of trusts, they have recently been questioned in the context of the family home. This chapter focuses on informal trusts of land and the social reasons why they are recognised, first looking at the problem of informality before turning to the different kinds of informal trusts of land. It also examines whether facts give rise to a resulting trust or a constructive trust, the practical significance of the distinction between constructive and resulting trusts of land, the relationship between proprietary estoppel and constructive trust, express agreement plus detrimental reliance, and the decision of the House of Lords in *Stack v Dowden*. The chapter
17. Informal trusts of land

concludes by considering some of the problems addressed by, and caused by, the operation of informal trusts in the context of cohabitation.

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