



# Family Matters

## Divorce and dissolution of civil partnerships

Sadly it is not always a case of “til death do us part”. When marriages and civil partnerships go wrong, either or both parties can be overwhelmed by a whole range of emotions. Sadness and bitterness make uneasy bedfellows yet somehow these conflicting feelings have to be resolved and a path to a happier future discovered amongst the rubble. Our highly experienced family lawyers can help ease the painful process from being unhappy together to being apart and the many issues that arise as a result.

There may be a dispute about the children, for example, with which parent they should live and how they should continue to see the parent who’s moved out regularly, that kind of thing. The law adopts a policy of leaving parents to agree as much as possible. The guiding principle in the law relating to children is to act with their best interest as “the paramount consideration”. However, if it seems that the only way to resolve matters is for lawyers to help with those discussions and even for the courts to assist, then you will find that our family team are specialists in this area of law and will be able to guide you through the process.

Financial matters are usually the most contentious issue within divorce or dissolution proceedings. Popular culture likes to portray divorce and the financial impact as an act which leaves one party destitute and the other bitter. In reality that is simply not the case, at least for most people. It is however, the case that one household cannot be divided into two households with the same standard of living. The emotional aspect of coming to terms with this fact is often as difficult as coming to terms with the end of the relationship.

Every couple going through a divorce or dissolution is different and these differences are catered for by us. Your needs, means and wishes will all be considered and the various options for resolving any dispute will be discussed with you, so that an informed decision may be made. It may be that there are no matters of dispute and you and your spouse simply want the terms of the agreement reached to be put into a formal document which can then be approved by the court. We can also help with this and bring matters to a swift conclusion.

## Pre-nuptial agreements

It was not so long ago that pre-nuptial agreements were simply not recognised by the English courts. Not so now. A landmark decision by the Supreme Court in 2010 has changed everything. If you get it right you can now agree who gets (or doesn't get) what on divorce.

But the law on pre-nuptial agreements remains complex and there are a strict set of rules that need to be complied with in order to give your pre-nuptial agreement the best chance of later being upheld by a court in the sad event of a divorce or dissolution.

## For more information please contact

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