

DIVORCE

If reconciliation is not possible, mediation has not resolved problems and a legal separation is inappropriate then divorce may be the ultimate solution where a marriage has broken down completely.

Your rights and obligations

If divorce is inevitable we will start by explaining your rights and obligations and how these will affect everyone concerned.

The divorce process

Our approach will always be to provide sympathetic and instructive advice and to find an early solution, especially for family problems involving children while ensuring that there is the minimum of stress to the family as a whole.

If you decide that your marriage is over, we will help you deal with the administrative procedures and try to make the process as painless as possible. We will deal with all problems that arise on your behalf and ensure that proceedings are completed as quickly as possible.

Children's welfare

Where children are involved in either separation or divorce, it is essential to ensure that they suffer as little as possible. You will want to know that your children are properly cared for and supported in the future. We can advise you how best to achieve this. If there should be problems or disagreements, we will try to ensure that an amicable agreement is reached. This is often an area in which mediation can be helpful. If it is not possible to reach an agreement, we can explain how you can obtain the assistance of the courts.

Financial agreements

Once a divorce has been agreed upon and the children's interests catered for, the financial agreements need careful assessment. If you have property or assets, you will be anxious to ensure that any agreement that is reached is fair and reasonable. We can offer expert help to achieve such an outcome, especially as there may be pensions, shares and houses to be valued, endowment policies to be considered and property transferred.

Family businesses

Where there are family or other business or company interests involved there are particular problems arising which may need to be addressed as thoroughly as the more obvious family matters. These include the question of whether a business or company should be valued and if so by whom and on what basis. Consideration must be given to the likely effect of proceedings on the business. We can offer our specialist



family law advice together with our expertise in business and company matters provided by our Business, Tax Planning and Property departments.

Maintenance

You will be concerned to ensure that you will have enough income after separation and divorce. If you are advised that you are likely to have to pay maintenances, you will want to know what are fair and reasonable payments. We can explain the principles and calculations upon which maintenance payments are based, both for you or your spouse and any children.

Child support

Many people experience difficulties in dealing with the Child Support Agency. It may be possible to agree maintenance provisions for your children so as to limit the involvement of the CSA. If you do become involved with the CSA we can guide you and help to resolve communication problems, as well as advising on the steps that are open to you if you are not happy with the CSA's assessment.



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