

MARRIAGE PROBLEMS

While many marriages run into problems, not all end in divorce.

Communication is vital but we seek to help our clients keep working together and preserve the status quo whilst issues are satisfactorily resolved.

A Separation Agreement

Whilst divorce may be the only ultimate solution where a marriage has broken down completely, in some cases a less permanent solution may be best. We can advise you on the appropriate form of settlement and draft a separation agreement for you. We have many years of helping and guiding people to make the decisions which are best for them and which result in a satisfactory outcome for everyone concerned.

Divorce

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 any problems that arise on your behalf and ensure that proceedings are completed as quickly as they can be.

Children and Child Protection

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 on how best to achieve this. If there should be problems or disagreements, we will try to ensure an amicable settlement is reached. This is often an area in which mediation can be helpful. We can advise you through the mediation process. If it is not possible to reach an agreement through your own discussions or mediation, we can negotiate on your behalf with a solicitor of the other party or explain how you can obtain the assistance of the courts. Whichever way, you can rest assured that the welfare of your children is of paramount importance to us too.

Financial Arrangements

Once a divorce has been agreed upon and the children's interests catered for, the financial arrangements 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.

Pension, Shares and Property Transfers

We can offer expert help to achieve a fair and reasonable outcome, especially as there may be pensions, shares and houses to value, endowment policies to be considered and property transferred.



A Family Business

Where there are family businesses or joint ventures of that kind involved, there are particular problems arising which need to be addressed as thoroughly as the more obvious family matters. We can combine our specialist family law advice with the advice of our business, tax planning and property departments to ensure that every important aspect of your situation has been taken fully into account.

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 maintenance, 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.

It is not irrevocable

Talking to us is not an irrevocable step towards divorce. As experienced and expert practitioners, we can take an objective view of your situation, which may help to find a basis for reconciliation. Problems both personal and legal are not always insurmountable, and we may be able to assist in overcoming them. (Communication is vital and we seek to help clients keep a working together and preserve the status quo whilst outstanding issues are satisfactorily resolved.) We aim to be both sympathetic and caring during a difficult time.



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