

Family Matters

A guide to VWV's
Divorce & Family
Law services



Families and relationships evolve throughout a person's life time. Advice from experienced family lawyers can help navigate a course through times of change.

VWV's experienced team of family law solicitors can advise you on all aspects of your relationship, including:

- prenuptial agreements for intended marriages and civil partnerships
- advice on the ownership of property and cohabitation agreements for unmarried couples
- separation agreements
- divorce and dissolution of civil partnerships
- advice on contact with children
- mediation

We pride ourselves on providing compassionate, clear, comprehensive and commercial legal advice from the outset.

Relationship agreements

Entering into marriage or a civil partnership is a life-changing step and requires careful consideration.

It is prudent to consider the possible consequences of a breakdown in the relationship in advance to provide certainty.

A prenuptial agreement can set out in advance how assets are to be divided. It gives each person the opportunity to consider what would be fair and reasonable in the event of a split.

This can be particularly important where one party is bringing significant assets into the marriage, where one person had inherited assets they wish to protect, or in second marriages.

Postnuptial agreements are also available if you are already married and wish to regulate the financial situation between you and your proposed spouse.

It is important that you take advice well in advance of your intended wedding date.

Cohabitation and unmarried families

There is no such thing as a 'common law' marriage. Unmarried couples do not have the same rights as married couples.

A cohabitation agreement can be used to formalise the financial arrangements between an unmarried couple, so that both individuals know what their respective contributions will be. It can also set out the rights of each individual to avoid a dispute or uncertainty if the relationship fails.

The law relating to cohabitation is provided by the Trustees of Land Act which is extremely complicated and requires legal input at an early stage.

Separation, divorce or dissolution of civil partnership

The breakdown of a relationship is a difficult and emotional time. There is uncertainty about the future and what needs to be done. We offer sensitive and bespoke advice to individuals from all walks of life.

The process can be straightforward but there are complicating factors, and you should not divorce before considering the implications on your family financial situation.

We will guide you through the process of separation and/or divorce, and explain the options available to you.

We recommend you meet with us at an early stage to discuss your particular circumstances.

International matters

If there is an international element, whether arising from the nationality of one of the parties, or the location of assets, there can be additional legal considerations which we can advise on.

“ You dealt with my complex divorce with compassion and honesty. When it felt like my world was crashing in around me, you were there as my constant expert, giving sensible and reasonable counsel. ”

Financial arrangements

We specialise in resolving complex financial disputes and will work with you to ensure that you understand your entitlement and provide for your future.

This can include obtaining financial disclosure from your spouse, advising you in relation to the family home, business assets, pension assets, income claims and international assets.

We will try to resolve matters constructively but are experienced in litigation if necessary in your case.

Children matters

The welfare of any children will be your primary concern and we will work hard to help you agree arrangements with the other parent where possible.

We can also advise you in relation to court proceedings concerning children.

ADR and 'resolution'

There are many ways of resolving the issues arising from the breakdown of a relationship without resorting to a court hearing. We can discuss these with you and advise you about what will suit you best.

'Resolution' is a national organisation of family lawyers who are committed to dealing with divorce, separation and other family problems in a non-confrontational way. As members of Resolution, we follow a code of practice that is designed to be sensitive, pragmatic and cost effective.

Contact us



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“ You provided **outstanding advice**, were always reassuring, patient and honest, and you guided with calm but firm advice. ”

“ I cannot express how grateful I am for all that you did for me during that awful time. For your expertise, but also for **your patience** and the way you always strove to calm things not exacerbate them **putting the needs of the children first.** ”

Guiding you every step of the way...

Our award-winning Private Client team can also advise you on:

- assistance for vulnerable adults
- contentious estates
- tax planning
- trust administration
- Wills and probate

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