



When Relationships End



Southampton's premier law firm - providing a full range of legal services to individuals and businesses across the Solent region for over 190 years.

Our aim is simple...

“To recognise and respond to our clients’ needs with prompt, clear and practical advice, based on a thorough knowledge of their situation.”

We understand the kind of problems and concerns you may have as a result of the breakdown of your marriage or relationship.

We have the necessary expertise to provide you with the help and support you need at such a time.

Paris Smith is an established firm of solicitors with an unrivalled reputation in the community.

Marriage or Relationship Breakdown

Finances

Pensions

Children

Mediation as a Way Forward

Collaborative Law

Civil Partnerships

Emergency Remedies

Living Together

How We Operate

Marriage or Relationship Breakdown

We will discuss with you the options of legal separation or divorce.

To obtain a divorce you have to show that your marriage has broken down irretrievably. You do this by proving either adultery, unreasonable behaviour, desertion, two years separation (with consent) or five years separation. We will explain precisely how the procedures work.

Finances

If your relationship has broken down you will naturally be concerned about your financial position. If you have children there will be an added concern. The financial aspects may be complicated and could involve capital assets, a division of property, pension options and maintenance entitlement.

Whether or not you are able to agree some or all of these areas with your spouse or partner, we strongly recommend that you seek our advice at the very earliest opportunity. This will ensure that you make the right decisions to protect your future security.

Pensions

This is a complex area, where you will need careful advice as to entitlement. We have that specialism and work regularly with other experts to address your needs.

Civil Partnership

We are at the forefront of developing this aspect of law. If your civil partnership comes to an end we can advise you on procedure and entitlement and have specialist knowledge of 'same sex' relationships.

Children

We recognise that disputes concerning children can create emotional turmoil. We take care to fully understand each particular case before advising you on the best course of action. It will be our aim to assist you in achieving the fairest possible solution. Our separate 'Children' brochure sets out our service in more detail.

Mediation as a Way Forward

Family mediation is an alternative route for couples to resolve problems following the breakdown of their relationship. It is an active, non-adversarial process where a neutral person helps both of you to negotiate directly once the decision to divorce or separate is made. Please ask us for our separate brochure, which provides more details about our mediation service.

Collaborative Law

Sometimes described as “mediation with lawyers”, collaborative law is gaining popularity in the UK. It has the advantages of mediation but differs in that both you and your partner have your lawyers present. Please ask for our separate brochure.

Emergency Remedies

No one should have to tolerate a violent spouse or partner. If you are the victim of domestic abuse do not delay in seeking our help. The Courts have the power to protect you in a variety of circumstances and we will help you obtain the protection you need. If your spouse is dealing with finances in an attempt to prejudice your claims we can take steps to protect those assets and ensure a level playing field.

Living Together

If you are not married but have been cohabiting, you and your children may still have rights to the property in which you live. Different principles of law may apply, but we recognise that the circumstances may be no less traumatic than if you had been married. We can advise you on housing issues and financial support.

How We Operate

If you would like to speak to one of our family law specialists, please telephone or write to us. You will normally be offered an initial free 30-minute interview, which will provide you with an opportunity to meet one of us and explain your particular circumstances. This time will also provide us with an opportunity to explain to you the available options and how, for example, the case can be financed.

If you have a case and you wish to take it up, we will:

Write to you setting out the terms and conditions under which we will provide you with our services.

Agree with you and confirm the precise steps to be taken in relation to your particular problem.

Keep you fully informed in writing of developments as the case proceeds.

Discuss progress and costs with you at regular intervals.

The Family Law Department includes members of Resolution and the Law Society's Family Law Panel.

If you would like more information, please contact our family team.

Fees

We understand that costs are a major concern, and we ensure that our charges are clear. We provide information on our charges before work begins, with our letters of engagement setting out the work involved and the fee basis, as well as dealing with other relevant or critical issues.



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