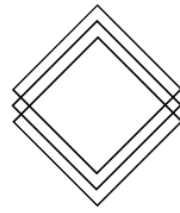


Family Law

OUR GUIDE TO ENSURE YOUR INTERESTS
AND ASSETS ARE PROTECTED WHEN
RELATIONSHIPS BREAK DOWN



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**READ INSIDE FOR OUR TOP 3 TIPS FOR WHEN YOU
DECIDE TO GET A DIVORCE**

**Contested and
uncontested divorce**

We explain the difference

**When you or your
partner can't agree**

We explain your options

**What are the grounds
for divorce**

What you need to understand

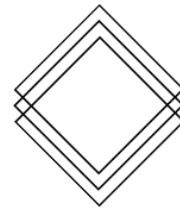
Understanding the divorce process and what steps need to be taken is something people hope they will never have to think about, but when they do it can cause anxiety, stress and confusion.

Where do I start? That's often the first thought that goes through the mind of someone considering divorce.

At My Law Matters we want you to have peace of mind by ensuring that you have the best legal advice so that you can make informed decisions.

Divorce is possibly one of the most stressful life events you can go through, and one that can have a major impact on your family and finances if it isn't handled correctly.

We are here to offer all the expertise and support you will need to get through your divorce process.



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**For FREE initial
advice call
0800 288 9947**

**Know your
options**

Our top 3 tips for when you're getting a divorce

1

When we are instructed by a new client who wishes to get a divorce, our advice is to always try to keep matters amicable so that you can avoid a confrontational approach to the process. If this can be achieved you'll speed up the process and avoid large legal bills.

2

Consider what material grounds and reasons that you wish for a divorce and it is a good idea to discuss them with your partner in advance, so that there are no surprises for you and your partner once the process starts, as this can help diffuse any tensions.

3

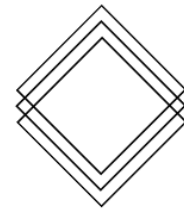
Think about what you wish to achieve, what is the best outcome for you, your partner and any children. Write your wishes down as this can help you crystallise your thoughts. At this stage it is also important for you to consider where you maybe willing to compromise and perhaps where you can concede to reach a fair agreement.

We will provide a fixed cost estimate upfront. Call us for a **FREE** consultation on
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Take some
time to think

Contested vs Uncontested

What's the difference?



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Uncontested

Approximately 90% of all divorces filed in England and Wales are uncontested, but what exactly is an uncontested divorce?

An uncontested divorce is just a divorce, regardless of the reason for divorce, but where both parties agree to not formally defend the divorce. If you are in agreement to the divorce it provides you with a quicker, easier and cheaper way to divorce.

You won't be expected to attend a Court hearing and everything can be dealt with quickly and easily. Most people seeking an amicable divorce want to have it dealt with as quickly as possible, whilst saving money on solicitor's fees and keeping stress to a minimum.

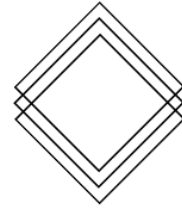
What are the benefits of an uncontested divorce?

1. You'll save money – The average saving on agreeing an uncontested divorce is over £750.
2. Quicker – An uncontested divorce can be finalised within months, whereas contesting a divorce can drag out the process often for years. With uncontested cases, it allows proceedings to move on.
4. No Court attendance required – When both parties agree to an uncontested divorce you won't need to appear in Court.



**Know the
difference**

Contested divorce



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Contested divorces are actually quite rare. Even when they do occur, the divorcing couple are usually required to attend only two Court hearings. But who decides if yours will be a contested or uncontested divorce?

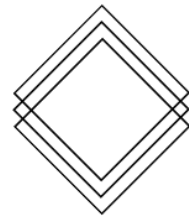
In England and Wales, the partner who begins divorce proceedings is called the Petitioner. The other party is called the Respondent. The Respondent decides whether to contest or not.

The Respondent will be sent a copy of the divorce petition and an Acknowledgement of Service form by the Court. This form contains a number of questions, including whether or not the Respondent wishes to defend against the divorce.

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Contested divorce



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In most cases, people answer 'no', meaning that the divorce can proceed uncontested. However, in some cases, the Respondent answers 'yes', which results in a more complicated process.

In cases of contested divorce, the Respondent is required to detail the reasons why they are defending the divorce. Once the petition has been served on the Respondent there's a time limit of seven business days to file this Acknowledgement of Service with the Court.

There are many different reasons why people decide to contest divorces. For example, they might not agree that the marriage has broken down irretrievably, or they might dispute the reason for divorce stated by their spouse in the petition.



**For free initial advice call our
team on 0800 288 9947**

There is only one 'grounds' for divorce in the UK, which is irretrievable breakdown. However, this must be proven by one of five acceptable reasons, which are:

- Unreasonable behaviour
- Desertion
- Adultery
- Two years' separation where both parties agree
- Five years' separation if one party won't agree

In contested divorces, the Court will require both parties to provide evidence to support their case. Once they have done this, a Judge will determine whether or not the partner who petitioned for divorce is entitled to it.

What are the outcomes of a contested divorce?

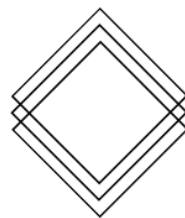
It is quite rare for people to contest divorces, and even when they do it's difficult to succeed in these defences and persuade a Judge not to allow a divorce to proceed if one of the five reasons above has been demonstrated.

It is also important to be aware that when Respondents don't succeed in contesting their divorce, they are usually ordered by the Court to pay the legal costs of the Petitioner.

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Are there
grounds
for divorce?

Can I use mediation to help a contested divorce?



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Because contested divorces take much longer, incur more costs and are much more stressful to both parties, it's best if you can avoid taking this route with your partner.

An option if you can't agree an uncontested divorce, or why you're separating, is to arrange mediation.

This process involves using a trained and impartial professional to help both parties to reach an agreement without having to argue the case in Court.

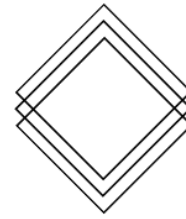
It will help reduce your costs and make your divorce less of an ordeal.



Sometimes it
helps to talk

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Do I need legal advice for a contested divorce?



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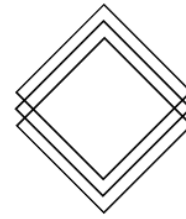
If you can't come to an agreement with your partner, taking your case to Court inevitably may be the only option. If you find yourself in this situation, it's really important that you have an expert solicitor who can advise you on the best approach to take and guide you throughout the whole process. This is particularly helpful when your partner is being uncooperative.

They will be able to help you decide which of the five reasons for divorce outlined is the most likely to succeed in Court. They can also communicate with your partner and their solicitor on your behalf if you don't want to have any contact with them.



Don't wait until it's too late

What happens about children, property and money?



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Whether the divorce is contested or not, a divorce brings your union to an end. A divorce doesn't determine what will happen to any children, property, money or other assets you share with your partner. These matters have to be decided separately and reaching a financial settlement in a divorce can be far more time-consuming and difficult than getting the divorce finalised.

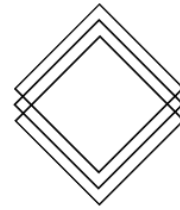
That's why, regardless of whether your divorce is contested or uncontested, you can take some of the anxiety and stress out of the situation and ensure that your interests are protected through the process by talking to our expert family solicitors as soon as possible.



**Talk to us
today!**

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0800 288 9947**

**WE ALSO OFFER THE
FOLLOWING SERVICES:**



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Dispute Resolution

A civil dispute is usually a disagreement between private individuals or between an individual and a business or organisation.

Our expert team aim to resolve your dispute as quickly and efficiently as possible, making sure that you understand your rights and are kept updated throughout the process.

Residential Conveyancing

We understand that moving house can be stressful at the best of times but our highly trained Conveyancing solicitors have years of experience and are committed to ensuring that everything runs smoothly wherever you are moving to. They will talk you through the process and guide you throughout, allowing you to oversee the work and keep track of progress.

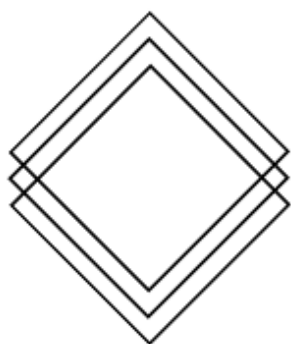
Probate & Estate Planning

Feeling safe in the knowledge that you're being supported by a dedicated solicitor can make all the difference in dealing with challenges relating to wills and inheritance. For this reason, our team provides pragmatic and informed legal advice designed to offer you a maximum amount of legal insight and support.

Will Writing & Lasting Power of Attorney

Did you know that over 60% of the UK adult population still don't have a valid Will? My Law Matters are here to put this right.

Our mission is to make Will writing stress-free, easy and affordable. All of our Wills are checked and verified by a qualified Solicitor. Our team will guide you through the process and ensure that your Will reflects your wishes.



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To speak to a member of our team call us now on:
0800 288 9947

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