

# RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN

Here to help you move on



#### How can we help you?

Divorce can be very stressful, and we believe choosing and working with your Lawyer should not add to that stress. We offer an experience and competitive service with Lawyers who can take you through each stage of the process.

#### **Initial Consultation**

- 15 Minutes Free Advice
- 45 Minutes 'Ask the Legal Expert' appointment for £99.

#### No Fault Divorce

A No Fault Divorce allows couples to leave their marriage without having to use one of the five facts to prove your marriage has 'irretrievably broken down', you can simply make a declaration together saying that it has.

#### Can a couple jointly apply for a no fault divorce?

Yes. A couple can apply for a no fault divorce singly or jointly. Previously one spouse had to issue divorce proceedings against the other. The new law doesn't change that a solicitor can only act for one of you in any child or financial arrangements. There might be the need to consider what would happen if one of you changes your mind due to a breakdown during discussions on child or financial arrangements.

#### How long does a no fault divorce take?

If everything therefore runs smoothly and there are no other issues, the minimum length of time to get a divorce now will be six months.

- No Fault Divorce process.
- A couple apply for a divorce individually or together. This means they can choose to make a statement together explaining their marriage has irretrievably broken down. They don't need to explain why.
- A period of 20 weeks will apply as a 'cooling off period'
- After 20 weeks and the couple are still looking to proceed, a Conditional Order is granted by the court. At this point you can now file a financial consent order with the court following the Condition Order being granted and (if you are having one) the financial order sealed (agreed) you can apply for your final divorce order
- A 6-week period
- After the 6 weeks is over a Final Order is made by the court.
- The minimum length of time to get a No Fault Divorce will be 6 months.

#### Can you contest a no fault divorce?

No, you cannot contest a no fault divorce. The reason for contesting a divorce is the mistaken belief that admitting fault will affect access to children and the fair division of financial assets. Although a no fault divorce cannot be contested, the terms of the divorce can. For example, financial arrangements and arrangements for children. In this case terms may be agreed through mediation or, failing that, through the court

#### What happens about the parenting arrangements and finances?

You will need to reach an agreement on how the arrangements for parenting and how the assets and finances are agreed whilst living separately, as these are separate parts of your divorce and are not covered under the no fault divorce law. If you are having difficulty on coming to an agreement between yourselves, mediation is the next reasonable step as it is a pre-requisite for going to court for a decision in most cases.

#### **Guide Disclaimer**

This guide is provided for information purposes only. We have done our best to ensure that the information contained in this guide is correct as of 01.09.2022. It applies only to England and Wales. However, the guide has no legal force, and the information may become inaccurate over time, due to changes in the law. Information within this guide may be over-simplified and the information contained within it does not constitute legal advice and we will not be liable should you rely on this information. Before you take any action, you should always seek legal advice from a professional with an in-date practicing certificate.

## Something to think about

Did you know that once Decree Absolute has been issued by the Courts and your Divorce is finalized, the terms of your Will have affected automatically?

It is common practice when making a Will during your marriage that the majority of your assets are left to your spouse, but when your Divorce is legally completed anything that has been gifted to them will be dealt with as if they died on the date that your Marriage legally ended. As a result of this, whatever they were set to inherit would then be passed on to the next Beneficiary who is entitled to it, in line with the terms of the Will. However, if you are still legally married your Will remains legally valid, and your spouse is still entitled to benefit under the terms of the Will.

If everything has been left to your spouse, with no other beneficiaries named, then your estate will be dealt with under the rules of intestacy.

Taking this into account it is important to review your Will to ensure that your new wishes are followed.

### We are local

We invite you to come and talk through your requirements during your face-to-face appointment - that's the nice thing about being local. If you're not able to make it into our office, we can also accommodate telephone and video appointments.

Call us on **01302 365 374** to arrange a free no obligation appointment to discuss your requirements and find out what we can do for you



# Where can you find us





## Our key promises:



**Direct Lawyer Contact** 



Free Initial Assessment



Flexible Openings\*



Clear Price Guarantee



Same-day Response

\*Contact your local office for availability



#### **Next steps**

Take advantage of our **Free Initial Assessment** to find out what suits your needs. To get in touch, call us on **01302 365 374** or email your query to **mail@jordansllp.com** to receive a response from one of our experts

# By your side since 1925

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