

Seeking Advice Early – the Benefits of Early Consultation with a Family Lawyer



The best time to seek legal advice is before you make any decisions or take irreversible action. If you are thinking about separating from your spouse or asking them for a divorce, or if the tensions between you have reached near-breaking point, this is the ideal time at which to seek advice.

These are the reasons why early advice is advisable.

You can assess all your options

Divorce is rarely straightforward and although the end game is to reach a certain point, i.e. that you are legally no longer married or in a civil partnership, how you reach that point can happen in many different ways. Family law doesn't always have to involve litigation and attending court – there are numerous more consultative methods of approaching negotiations, including mediation and collaborative discussion. A family lawyer can explain all of the options that are available, giving you time to consider what would work best for you and any children you may have.

Consider both the short and the long term

Speaking with a family lawyer early on can also help you think about what you want for both the short and the long term. Many people's initial focus is on the short term and finding a way out of their unhappiness. However, acting rashly at this point can effect the long-term relationship you have with your spouse, which is usually worth keeping civil – especially if there are children from the relationship.

You're not already in a corner

We can help people whatever stage they are at and it isn't uncommon for people to only consult a solicitor once they have already separated from their spouse. Unfortunately in these cases, if a significant action has already

been taken, such as one person moving out of the shared home, the options then become more limited. The benefit of seeking advice at an early stage before any firm decision have been made is that you still have all options available to you.

You can find out where you stand

There is a great deal of hearsay around family law and a number of perpetual myths prevail. Family law is also evolving and modernising. Therefore, what you thought you knew about divorce, separation or civil partnership dissolution may not be factually correct. Finding out where you stand from a legal perspective can provide you with peace of mind, and allow you to take the next steps.

Start from a point of calm

Divorce can quickly become emotionally charged and the stress involved often leads people to act outside of their normal character. Seeking advice early on means you can remove some of the emotion and assess the situation calmly, focusing on resolving issues rather than letting your emotions influence your actions.



Anthony Jones is Head of Family Law and is a Resolution Accredited Specialist. For more information or a second opinion, please contact him on 01457 761320 or email anthony@odonnellsolicitors.co.uk