

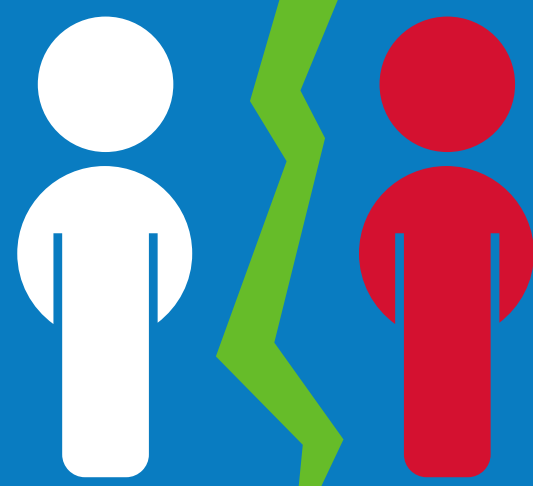
# CONSIDERING A DIVORCE?

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING A DIVORCE, THESE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS MAY HELP YOU.

## 1. DO I NEED A REASON FOR WANTING A DIVORCE?

You can get a divorce if you have been married at least a year, your marriage is legally recognised in the UK, and you have a permanent home in England or Wales. You have to show there are good reasons to end your marriage and these are:

- Adultery
- Unreasonable behavior
- Desertion
- You've lived apart for more than 2 years and both agree to the divorce
- You've lived apart for more than 5 years, even if one of you disagrees with the divorce



## 2. WILL I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?



Your break-up can be kept out of the courts and the process made as painless as possible if you choose to complete a collaborative divorce. This can be the fastest, cheapest and most stress-free way to legally end a relationship, though it involves you working with your ex-partner and agreeing a fair settlement between you.

## 3. HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Many solicitors charge a flat fee to complete a divorce, though it depends on your specific case. You can use the Law Society's Find a Solicitor service – [www.lawsociety.org.uk/findasolicitor](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/findasolicitor) – to find a family law expert near you. The solicitor will provide an estimate for completing your divorce before you go ahead and hire them.



## 4. WILL EVERYTHING BE SPLIT 50:50?

It's rarely the case that everything is split 50:50 when you get divorced or dissolve a civil partnership.

The main consideration when determining how assets are split, is how much each of you need to live on after the divorce or dissolution of your civil partnership.

Because money, property, pensions, investments and savings are rarely divided 50:50, it's important to seek professional advice from a solicitor.



## 5. HOW CAN A SOLICITOR HELP ME?



### A solicitor will...

- Listen to you
- Discuss your options
- Let you know where you stand
- Tell you what your rights are
- Help you understand what your ex-partner's rights are
- Try to make the divorce as simple and as stress-free as possible
- Help you reach the financial settlement that is right for you and your family



## 6. CAN I GET DIVORCED WITHOUT HIRING A SOLICITOR?

Yes, some couples use a DIY divorce route to save money. However, there are very few simple divorce cases and we recommend you use a solicitor to avoid problems in the future.



## 7. WHAT IF DIVORCE IS AGAINST MY RELIGION?

If divorce is against your religion, a solicitor can give you advice about other forms of separation.



## USE A PROFESSIONAL. USE A SOLICITOR.

If you are considering divorce or dissolving a civil partnership, a solicitor can help you understand your rights and start the divorce or dissolution process.

Visit [www.useaprofessional.co.uk/family](http://www.useaprofessional.co.uk/family) for further information, or use the Law Society's Find a Solicitor service [www.lawsociety.org.uk/findasolicitor](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/findasolicitor) to find a family law expert near you.

While we have made every effort to provide accurate information, the law is always changing and affects each person differently. This information is not a substitute for specific advice about your situation and we will not be liable to you if you rely on this information.