

Key Considerations Before Starting a Divorce or Dissolution



Your marriage or civil partnership details

Consider when and where you were married or entered into your civil partnership and whether you have your original or certified certificate available. You will generally need to have been married or in a civil partnership for more than one year before applying for a divorce or dissolution.



Whether either party has already started proceedings

If you or your spouse or civil partner has already submitted an application, bring any documents or correspondence received from the court. This will help your solicitor understand the current stage of the process and any deadlines that may apply.



Whether a sole or joint application may be appropriate

Divorce applications can be made jointly or by one spouse alone. If communication remains constructive, consider whether you have discussed how the divorce will be started; however, a sole application can still be made if a joint application is not suitable.



Your financial position

Think about the property, savings, investments, pensions, businesses and debts held by either of you. The divorce itself does not determine how these assets should be divided, so understanding your overall financial position is an important part of planning your separation.



Your home and immediate living arrangements

Consider where each of you is currently living, whether the family home is owned or rented and whether there are mortgage or other housing costs to manage. Avoid making significant decisions about property or ownership without first understanding the potential legal and financial implications.

Arrangements for children

If you have children, consider what arrangements are currently in place for where they live, the time they spend with each parent and their financial support. Children arrangements are legally separate from the divorce process, although they will often need to be considered at the same time.

Any international connections

Tell your solicitor if either of you lives abroad, holds another nationality, was married overseas or owns assets in another country. International connections can make early advice particularly important when deciding how and where proceedings should be started.

Your priorities

Think about what matters most to you over the coming months. This may be bringing the marriage to an end promptly, securing your financial position, protecting a business or pension, maintaining stability for your children or simply understanding your options before making a decision.



Chester Office
Knights Court
1 Weaver Street
Chester, Cheshire
CH1 2BQ
01244 354 800



Liverpool Office
3rd Floor
No. 4 St Paul's Square
Liverpool
L3 9SJ
0151 321 0000