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Don't let your Divorce become a drama...

Separation can cause a great deal of stress. If you maintain an amicable approach your divorce could proceed more smoothly. The following tips are not definitive but may help you towards a smoother and more successful divorce:

- 1. Communicate** – this may be easier said than done, but communicating effectively with your spouse could lead to an easier (and cheaper!) divorce.
- 2. Don't involve the children** – children can often be caught up in the middle of an adult dispute. This is not fair on them and may cause long-term consequences.
- 3. Don't include everything bad they've ever done in the divorce petition** – whilst this might be tempting, slinging mud will only cause hostility.
- 4. Prepare** – do not focus on the other person's case and concentrate on getting on top of your own case. Start collecting and organising your financial documents.
- 5. Seek legal advice early on** – to help you understand your legal rights and options, and prevent you from making common mistakes.
- 6. Work as a team** – you may have to work with your solicitor for 6-12 months or longer in complex cases, so it is important that you are able to work together effectively. You can help to keep your costs down by working as a team.
- 7. Be reasonable** – when it comes to financial needs, remember that your spouse needs a roof over their head, money to pay bills and food to eat.
- 8. Honesty is the best policy** – be open with your spouse about your finances as you both need to know exactly what money there is and where.
- 9. Be proportionate about time and costs** – don't spend £500 arguing about £500. Cases can be time consuming and this can impact costs. One reason for a case becoming time consuming is emotion, which is particularly true at the beginning of a case. Remember your solicitor is not a counsellor.
- 10. Keep perspective** – focus on the bigger picture and what the outcome should be. Without direction it can be difficult to understand what is happening and this can in turn cloud the issues and get in the way of a potential settlement.

Written by our Family and Matrimonial Solicitor, Madeleine Harrington

Madeleine is compassionate and pragmatic and offers family clients:

- A FREE 30 minute no-obligation consultation
- Fixed fee divorce service
- Appointments outside of office hours

For further details please call 01844 354555 or pop in to see us.



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