



Divorce and Separation Top 10 Tips

1. Obtain independent legal advice

It is best to obtain independent expert legal advice from a specialist trained family solicitor. You might find advice from friends and relatives to be helpful but unless they are legally trained the advice may be inaccurate and misleading. It is imperative to speak to a specialist at an early stage.

2. Disclose your financial situation

It is important that in a financial matter full and frank financial disclosure is achieved at an early stage. This will ensure that everyone is aware of the full circumstances and gives the best chance to reaching a fair agreement to avoid any contested court proceedings.

3. Obtain a properly drafted financial order

Once there is an agreement on the financial matters it is vital that a properly drafted financial order is lodged with the court. Without a financial order then all financial claims could be left open and this could result in proceedings in the future which could result in future assets being taken into account. A properly drafted financial order should resolve these risks and formally conclude matters.

4. Consider alternative options to court

It should be viewed that contested court proceedings are a last resort. There are other options to consider from mediation, collaborative law, negotiations to arbitration. The costs and delays from going to court rarely make it a desirable exercise.

5. Be realistic

It is important that everyone is realistic. It is key to remember that divorce is a slow progress. At present there are considerable delays with the courts. Often resolving disputes things take time and the more one has a reasonable approach from the start the increased chance there is of an early resolution.



6. Consider costs and funding options

Costs can easily increase in matrimonial matters. It is important that a keen eye is kept on costs to ensure that they keep proportionate to the issues. Costs must be considered at the outset alongside any funding options for the work required.

7. Identify your support system

You should seek support from friends and family to help you through this difficult and challenging period. If needed you may need to speak to a Counsellor to provide the appropriate support.

8. Keep an open mind

It is important to keep an open mind to options be it the method to reach an agreement or the actual settlement itself. There are often many different ways to resolve financial issues and the more options you can consider the better the chance of achieving a resolution that meets you main goals

9. There's no such thing as a silly question...

Never be afraid to ask questions to your legal advisor. There is no such thing as silly question. These are important issues and you need to have any queries properly answered.

10. It's normal to feel emotional

Whilst a degree of guilt or anger is completely understandable in such emotive times it is important that these do not cloud your judgment. There are different aspects the law can and cannot take into account. As such it is vital you have a professional advisor to help you through the process to ensure that your matter is approached as appropriately as possible.



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