


Family Law



law
setfords
people, by people



We aren't solicitors first, we're family members — brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters. Setfords' family lawyers therefore understand what it's like to be part of a family, and know what it feels like when that unit is under threat.

If you need family law advice as you deal with a divorce, separation, or any other family-related issue, you can rest easy. The Setfords family lawyer handling your case will treat you with the sensitivity and care that you need because it's what they would want, too.

Use this brochure to learn more about our family law services and how we can help you reach the best possible outcome for you and your family.

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Divorce

Your marriage ending can be hugely stressful and emotional, regardless of who made the decision. Our lawyers can guide you through the process with compassion and professionalism, assisting you with all of the legal formalities involved.

We can help with:

- 1 Legal advice and guidance tailored to your situation and circumstances**
- 2 Preparing and filing the necessary documents**
- 3 Negotiation if there are issues with the division of assets, child matters, spousal support, and more**
- 4 Representation in court if necessary**
- 5 Mediation and alternative dispute resolution, helping you reach an agreement outside of court**

We understand that every divorce case comes with a unique set of circumstances. Our lawyers will get to know your case and provide you with the advice to help you achieve the best possible outcome for you and your family.





Children

All too often when a relationship breaks down, there can be an enormous impact on the children. To protect them, issues involving children need to be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Setfords can help you focus on their welfare to achieve what is in their best interests. Some of the matters we can help with include:

- 1 Child arrangements orders, which set out key arrangements including where a child will live, when they spend time with each parent, and when and how contact will happen**

- 2 Clarifying and establishing parental responsibility, referring to the legal rights and responsibilities that parents have for their children.**

- 3 Child maintenance arrangements**

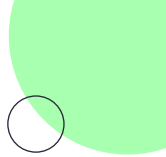
- 4 Emergency orders and injunctions if a child is at immediate risk.**

- 5 Relocation issues, if one parent wishes to relocate with the child. This may involve seeking the other parent's consent or obtaining approval from the court.**

- 6 Court representation**

- 7 Mediation and alternative dispute resolution**

Child matters can often be complex and emotional, and every one is different. Our experienced lawyers are experts in this area, and can help you get the outcome that puts your children's best interests first.



Financial settlements and disputes

The financial aspect of a separation can often give rise to more stress and concern than the separation itself. Our lawyers can help you identify and understand your financial resources and discuss the options available to you. These options may include maintenance payments by you, payments for you or your children, the transfer or sale of property, and the division of pensions.

Financial assets can include:

1 **Property**

2 **Pensions**

3 **Savings**

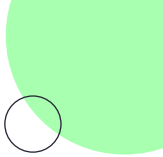
4 **Shares**

5 **International assets**

6 **And more**

A Setfords family law specialist will look at your unique case and how to apply the law to help you achieve the best possible solution. We can assist you through negotiation, mediation and dispute resolution services, as well as representation in court if your case requires this.





Mediation

Mediation is an alternative way of resolving the issues that arise when couples decide to separate. It is a voluntary process whereby a qualified family mediator can help a couple reach a mutually acceptable agreement. It's beneficial because it's designed to avoid costly court proceedings.

Setfords' family mediators do not typically provide legal advice or counselling, but offer impartial input to help couples work together to solve disagreements surrounding the separation and reach an outcome they can both accept. For example, considering how finances will be organised or how children will be cared for.

Our mediation department handles all aspects of family law mediation. As Setfords' mediators are also qualified family law solicitors, they both understand the law and are trained in mediation skills, helping separating couples to reach an agreement that can benefit them both.

Separation

For couples who separate but don't divorce, a separation deed can help them formalise their separation and deal with certain legal issues.

These can include:

- 1 Child matters**

- 2 Certain financial matters**

- 3 The division of personal belongings**



Premarital agreements

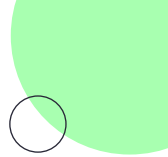
Premarital agreements, which are commonly referred to as prenups, are becoming increasingly popular, even though they can be seen as unromantic. However, such agreements can provide clarity and certainty for a couple about to enter into a lifelong commitment.

There are many reasons why a premarital agreement may be a good idea:

- 1 To predict the outcome of any divorce settlement before you marry.**
- 2 To save on costs and acrimony that sometimes result in divorce proceedings.**
- 3 To prevent speculative claims following a short marriage.**
- 4 To protect family assets which are intended to pass through generations.**
- 5 To protect those marrying later in life or for a second time, who may not have children.**
- 6 To limit the claims of a second spouse, and so protect the needs of children from previous marriages.**

Setfords' family law solicitors have all the required experience to negotiate and draft prenup agreements, taking into account what both parties want and the rules and regulations surrounding premarital agreements in the UK.





Cohabitation

If you and your partner are intending to move in together or are already living with each other, you may want to consider setting up a cohabitation agreement.

This is a formal written document for couples who choose to live together but aren't married. Unfortunately, couples don't often take legal advice when making joint financial decisions, such as buying a house, and this can cause problems if their relationship breaks down.

No one wants to think negatively at the beginning of a relationship, but it's important to understand that, should things end down the line, cohabiting couples have no legal status.

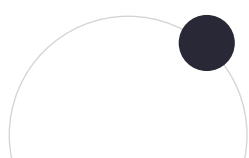
An experienced Setfords family lawyer can help you create a cohabitation agreement and ensure you and your partner are protected no matter what happens in the future.

Parental Alienation

Children are heavily influenced by their parents. Hostility between the two can unfortunately result in them siding with one parent against the other, either intentionally or unintentionally. This may then appear as the child's desire to reject all contact with one parent.

When parental alienation happens, it is essential not just to address the parents' behaviour, but also to consider the child's best interests.

At Setfords, our family lawyers understand that matters surrounding parental alienation are usually emotional and stressful. We have experience in all elements surrounding implacably hostile parents, and will work with you to achieve the best outcome for you and your children.



Domestic Violence

Domestic violence can take several forms, including physical, emotional, or financial abuse. If you're a victim of domestic violence, you have several legal options open to you.

- 1 Helping you apply for protective orders, including non-molestation orders and occupation orders to help protect you and your family.**
- 2 Assisting with separation and divorce**
- 3 Dealing with matters including child and financial matters, both in and out of court.**

Our family law specialists can discuss your next steps in an empathetic and professional manner, to help you move on from a distressing situation and look forward to a brighter future.

Why Setfords?



Our family law department is well known for providing expert legal advice and guidance when you need it the most. But what truly sets us apart from other firms?



Only deal with experienced lawyers. Setfords lawyers have an average of 18 years of post qualified experience, meaning your case won't be passed onto an inexperienced junior.



Clear fee structure. Our fee structure is clear from the outset, meaning no nasty surprises and a clearer path ahead.



Nationwide lawyers. We have family lawyers located all over the UK, and have extensive remote working systems to allow them to assist you virtually, too.



Flexible approach. With a unique flexible approach, our lawyers have more time for their clients, and can give you a superior service as a result.



4.9 Excellent rating on Trustpilot. We have five star reviews from thousands of clients like you, helping you to feel reassured that you're working with some of the very best.



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