

A simple guide to Divorce

Divorce is a significant life decision, and understanding the process can reduce stress and confusion. In this guide, we'll take you step-by-step through the divorce process, making it clear when you can handle things yourself and when it's best to seek legal support.

Stage 1: Understand eligibility requirements

- You must have been married for at least one year.
- The marriage must be legally recognised in the UK.
- You or your spouse must have a permanent home in England or Wales.

Stage 2: Complete the divorce application

- Apply online through the government website or by post using a D8 form.
- Provide your marriage certificate.
- Confirm that the marriage has broken down.

Stage 3: Pay the court fee

- Current fee: £612 (may vary, check government website for updates).
- Fee waivers may be available for those on low income.

Stage 4: Serve the Divorce application on your spouse

- If applying jointly, both spouses agree to the divorce and so the application does not need to be served.
- If applying individually, the court will serve the application to your spouse, usually via email.



Stage 5: Wait for your spouse's response (applicable to sole applications).

- The court will inform you via email once your spouse has responded to the application.

Stage 6: Apply for a conditional order

- This is the first of two orders that will be made in respect of the divorce.
- This application can be made 20 weeks after the divorce application begun.
- You will need to confirm that the information in the divorce application remains correct and that you still want to proceed.

Stage 7: Wait for the conditional order to be granted

The court will review and, if everything is in order, grant the conditional order. This means the court recognises there is a valid marriage which has broken down.

Stage 8: Apply for the final order

After 6 weeks and 1 day from the date of the conditional order, you can apply for the final order.

Stage 9: Receive the final order

The Final Order legally ends your marriage.

Stage 10: Consider financial settlements

- While the divorce ends the marriage, it does not automatically resolve financial matters.
- Consider obtaining a financial consent order to formalise any agreement.



Stage 11: Seek legal advice

Consider seeking professional legal advice early on in relation to financial matters and matters concerning children.

Stage 12: Consider mediation or collaborative law

If there are disputes, consider alternative dispute resolution methods to avoid court.

Stage 13: Update your will

After divorce, consider updating your will to reflect your new circumstances.

Contact Us for Assistance

If you need further support with your divorce process, our experienced Family Law team at Lewis Denley Solicitors can help.

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Please note: This guide offers a simplified overview of the divorce process and is intended for general information only. It does not constitute legal advice.

Every divorce is unique, and more complex cases, such as those involving children, financial disputes, or international elements may follow a different path. If your situation involves any of these complexities, we recommend seeking tailored legal advice from a qualified solicitor.



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