

High-street Solicitors

People getting married for the first time discover that marriage is a totally different ball game from bachelorhood. Lifestyle drastically changes and one is forced to accept new responsibilities and obligations and mature faster. Marriage is a partnership in which there is no space for individualism. Both partners are supposed to nurture and support each other emotionally in all the life's crises. Their finances become one as they buy marital assets and use them jointly.

Quite a few marriages turn out to be as good as partners imagined them would be. All their expectations and hopes are fulfilled. On the other hand, there are marriages that collapse within a few years and the partners decide to split and go their own ways. Why does this happen?

When people get married, they live together and gradually get to know each other better. Their true personalities are revealed to each other, warts and all. Many people drift away from each other with time, looking for new partners with whom they can make a fresh start. Extramarital affairs are one of the major reasons for divorce. These may arise due to meeting a more attractive or understanding partner or lack of intimacy in marriage. As years pass, some partners become bored with each other and start looking for something new in life and take on new romantic interests.

Some marriages are claustrophobic and restrictive because of a degree of emotional or physical abuse involved. The physical abuse may involve behaviour like pushing and shoving around, throwing things at the person or outright beatings. Emotional abuse is at a psychological level and its scars are very difficult to heal because they are inflicted on the mind and shape the individual's attitude in terms of self-confidence, self-esteem, anxiety and general outlook. This may include taunts, unjustified criticism, verbal abuse, intimidation and other controlling behaviour like restrictions on movement and total embargo on family finances.

Divorce is the only solution in most of these cases. When relations have worsened between the partners to a great extent and they want to separate, it is very difficult for them to come to an amicable agreement about various issues that have to be settled like division of marital property, child custody issues and maintenance rights. In these cases, when a conclusion cannot be reached by the partners themselves, the only option is to go to the court where the judge will pronounce a verdict after hearing arguments of both sides.

This is where the high-street solicitors come in. Though by law, anyone can act as their own counsel, in real world there is hardly a person who would not want to take their services to represent his or her interest in the court when the divorce is being contested.

This is because it is essential for a person to have complete legal knowledge and understand loopholes in the law to fight the case successfully and put convincing arguments before the judge. Ordinary people looking for a divorce do not have this specialised legal expertise. The law lays down rights and obligations of both the partners and it is important for them to understand these and use them to their full benefit if they are not to be short-changed of their due.

Divorce laws have changed in recent years and it has become easier for the partners to separate. A slew of online companies offering uncontested divorce have come up which can arrange everything with the client not having to stir out of the home. Additionally, the service of divorce counsellors is available for partners to reach an agreement about all issues. Still quite a few marriages end up in the court due to disputes.

The role of solicitors becomes critical if there are significant issues involved in the divorce related to property and finances (marital house, cash deposits, mortgage, vehicles, insurance, and debt). Which partner will get which asset and has to take care of which liability are contentious issues and it is essential that the facts should be put before the judge and argued expertly because so much is at stake.

Child custody is another issue that gives rise to a lot of emotions. Many parents are deeply attached to their children and cannot bear to live without them. They want to do their best to get child custody. How much maintenance the wife should get is important if she and the children have to have a decent lifestyle after divorce and meet their expenses. Solicitors, even though they turn out to be expensive, are indispensable in hotly contested divorce cases where each partner wants to safeguard his or her rights.

About the Author

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