
HOW DIVORCE WORKS



HOW DIVORCE WORKS IN ENGLAND & WALES STEP-BY-STEP

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01 NO-FAULT DIVORCE EXPLAINED

This guide explains the complete divorce process under the current no-fault system, from application to Final Order, including how finances and children issues fit into the wider framework.

Introduced in 2022, no-fault divorce removes blame and reduces conflict. Either spouse (or both jointly) can apply.

Key points:

- 1.No need to prove adultery or unreasonable behaviour
 - 2.No ability to defend the divorce
 - 3.Couples can file jointly
-

02 THE DIVORCE TIMELINE

Step 1 — Apply

Online system or solicitor submits application.

Step 2 — 20-Week Reflection Period

Mandatory.

Used to negotiate finances and children arrangements.

Step 3 — Conditional Order

Formerly Decree Nisi.

Court confirms the marriage can legally end.

Step 4 — Final Order

Legally ends the marriage.



03 DIVORCE DOES NOT COVER THE FINANCES

A common misconception.

You need a financial consent order approved by the court, even if you reach agreement privately.

Without it:

1. Your ex could make claims years later
2. You're financially vulnerable

04 CHILDREN MATTERS ARE SEPARATE AGAIN

These are handled by:

1. Parenting plans
2. Solicitor negotiation
3. Mediation
4. Court applications (C100)

Judges expect parents to avoid court unless necessary.

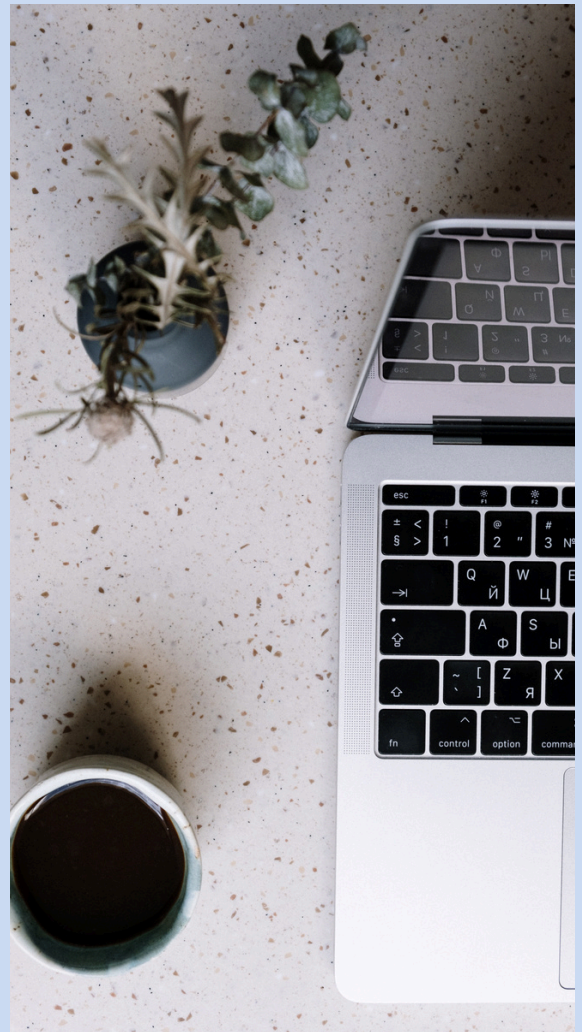
05 WHEN YOU SHOULD SEEK LEGAL ADVICE

1. If there are assets
2. If you own a home
3. If you have children
4. If the case is international
5. If the relationship is unsafe



KEY QUESTIONS

1. How long will my divorce take?
2. Do I need a consent order?
3. What is the best way to protect my finances?
4. Do I need interim arrangements?



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