



COOPER SONS
HARTLEY &
WILLIAMS
SOLICITORS

Family issues?

The family solicitors at Cooper Sons Hartley & Williams have the experience and knowledge to assist families and couples through a wide range of legal difficulties associated with relationship breakdowns, from pre-nuptial agreements to divorce.

We pride ourselves on providing a sensitive, friendly and professional service to guide clients through the issues arising to find the right solution for them.

We will discuss your options at every stage to help achieve the best possible outcome for you in a cost effective way.

We are able to offer a free initial 30 minute appointment to advise you on how we can help and the likely cost involved.

We can also advise you before your marriage or co-habitation.

Pre-nuptial agreements – Such agreements are becoming increasingly common with couples who are contemplating marriage and who want to achieve some certainty in the event of marital breakdown. Although not automatically binding on the court they are increasingly being taken into account. We can help draft such agreements to help ensure that they have the best chance of being effective.

Pre-partnership agreements – We are able to assist prospective civil partners in preparing an agreement similar to a pre-nuptial agreement.

Co-habitation agreement – where an unmarried couple is thinking of living together it is often sensible to consider drawing up an agreement which will deal with how finances will be managed during the relationship and what is to happen in the event of a separation. We can help you draw up an agreement that safeguards your interests.

We deal with all types of family cases, including:

Divorce – A marital breakdown can be a stressful time. Whether you are the Petitioner or Respondent, we will explain the procedure, likely timescale and costs for the preparation of the divorce petition, the completion of the acknowledgement of service through to obtaining the decree absolute (which brings the marriage to an end).

Financial matters on divorce - We are experienced at dealing with the many varied and important financial issues that arise in a divorce such as what should happen to the family and home and any pension entitlement of the parties to the marriage as well as issues of maintenance for a spouse or the children of the family.

Children residence and contact - The welfare of any children is a priority in any separation and consequently our family solicitors listen carefully to your wishes and concerns about the children and where they should live (residence) and the amount of time they should spend with the other parent (contact).

Co-habitation - It is a popular misconception that there is such a thing as a “common law marriage”. Where an unmarried couple separates the remedies available are completely different and far more limited and far less flexible than those available to married couples. We have the expertise to advise you on these difficult issues.

Civil Partnerships - The Civil Partnership Act 2004 enabled same sex couples to obtain legal recognition of their relationship. Should your relationship break down we are able to guide you through the process of the separation and resolution of the issues arising with regard to finances or children.

Injunctions - Occasionally issues of domestic violence arise with the break-up of relationships. We are able to advise sensitively and where necessary take prompt action to apply to the court to secure an injunction to restrain the other spouse or partner from further violence and if appropriate seek his or her exclusion from the family home.

Adoption - Our experienced family solicitors are able to assist you in this complex area of law. We are able to deal sensitively with the emotional issues that can often arise.

For a free initial chat, or for more information, please contact -

Stephen Shuff	stephen.shuff@cshw.co.uk	01298 816930
Andrea Woodhead	andrea.woodhead@cshw.co.uk	01298 77511
Debbie Hall	debra.hall@cshw.co.uk	01298 77511