

# FAMILY LAW

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The breakdown of any relationship is a painful event. The problems that follow are not only emotional but practical, and this is where we can offer expert help and advice. We believe that a close working relationship with our clients is essential, and adopt a sympathetic yet positive and objective approach. The family law team is part of our dispute resolution department and provides expertise in all aspects of family law.

Each case is different and requires special treatment.

We endeavour to be available to answer queries and give assurance. At the same time, we recognise the need to be cost-effective so that assets are not swallowed up by legal fees.

We have the specialisation, size and support to provide an effective legal service with a commitment to obtaining a speedy and practical resolution to your problems.

## Separation and divorce

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We are members of Resolution, with solicitors who are members of the Law Society's Family Law Panel and Children Panel. We can advise on all aspects of divorce, separation and ancillary issues, explaining the powers of the court and the options available to you.

We conduct proceedings in all courts, although our work centres mainly around the local county and domestic courts.

## Children

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The welfare of the children is paramount when a marriage or relationship breaks down, and it is vital to ensure that proper consideration is given to the children throughout any proceedings. We advise fully on the implications of the Children Act and also on child abduction, wardship, adoptions and public law proceedings involving local authorities.

## Urgent applications

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Some elements of extreme behaviour require an urgent application to a court to obtain an injunction, whether to prevent a course of behaviour or to secure matrimonial assets. We have the expertise and resources to ensure that immediate applications are made to enable our clients to seek the court's protection in urgent matters.

## Financial matters

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We have considerable experience in dealing with the financial consequences of marital breakdown. We believe in adopting a common-sense and realistic approach to achieve a speedy and cost-effective resolution of financial issues.

We will advise you on the division of property and capital, as well as maintenance, including advice on potential claims via the Child Support Agency.

## Unmarried and single parent families

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We are fully experienced in advising on the consequences of the breakdown of relationships outside marriage, including advice on children, the financial consequences, and the distribution of property purchased within the relationship.

We can also advise you on a suitable agreement to protect your interests before you start living together.

## Public funding and costs generally

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We will advise you on your eligibility for assistance under the public funding scheme (replacing Legal Aid). We will make you fully aware of the cost implications of obtaining public funding and the effects of the 'statutory charge'.

We recognise that legal costs can be a headache, and this is an aspect that we will discuss with you, so that you are aware of your position with regard to costs. We will provide you with regular costs updates throughout the course of the work in hand.

## Further information

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WEB: [WWW.CLIFTONINGRAM.CO.UK](http://WWW.CLIFTONINGRAM.CO.UK)  
ADDRESS: Clifton Ingram LLP, 22-24 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 IBA  
TEL: +44 (0) 118 978 0099  
FAX: + 44 (0) 118 977 1122

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