



Forensic services – matrimonial proceedings

Going through a divorce can be a difficult and emotional time, but it is necessary to separate the divorce itself from the financial settlement. The former is relatively straight forward in many cases, whereas the latter is often extremely complex and costly for individuals with significant business assets and complicated financial affairs.

At Strathmore we offer a non-confrontational approach based upon developing a full understanding of your personal situation and financial position.

Our team has worked on numerous cases involving complex assets including shares in family trading companies, partnership shares, part ownership of land and buildings, Small Self Administered Pension Schemes (SSAS), Funded Unapproved Retirement Benefits Schemes (FURBS), Self Invested Personal Pensions (SIPP), discretionary trusts and overseas investments.

We have assisted in a number of divorce cases over many years acting either as:

- A forensic accountant assisting solicitors in understanding complex financial matters
- A 'McKenzie Friend' assisting high net worth individuals who wish to 'self represent' in their own financial settlement

In simple terms, it is necessary to separate the divorce itself from the financial settlement. The former is relatively straight forward in most cases whereas the latter is often extremely complex and costly for individuals with significant business assets and complicated financial affairs.



The Strathmore team have significant experience in operating as a 'McKenzie Friend'. This is usually where a voluntary settlement cannot be agreed.

The parties then operate under a court appointed timetable which involves potentially up to three hearings before a settlement is reached. Prior to the first hearing a full disclosure of assets and liabilities must be made on what is known as Form E. This disclosure forms the basis for negotiations as to an appropriate financial settlement in relation to both capital (i.e. assets) and income.

Form E disclosures may be extensive, and it is vital that this is completed accurately.

Our team are highly experienced in extracting key issues in relation to the value of assets and liabilities – for example, looking at the issue of personal guarantees in relation to business borrowings – and ensuring that any significant risks to the business are incorporated in the valuation.

Where necessary we will introduce clients to highly experienced and competent legal representatives including solicitors and barristers. We will also assist clients in obtaining reports from professional experts who are often jointly appointed by the parties.

These experts deal with various issues such as property and pension valuations.

Strathmore offer a value for money approach as our charge out rates are significantly lower than most legal practices. By securing legal support only when necessary costs are kept to a minimum, ensuring marital assets are preserved for the benefit of all parties.

Our team are here to help. whatever your situation. For a confidential, initial consultation to see how we can assist you, call David Johnson on 0161 219 1850.