

Once, twice, three times a marriage



Tom Fisher

Is it third time lucky, or is your first love your true love?

Tom Fisher, a solicitor specialising in Family Law at Jackson Lees, has moved to their Heswall offices from West Kirby.

Throughout his time at the firm, Tom has dealt with family matters and has specialised in this field for more than 25 years. A father of two daughters, Tom understands the complexities of family life. Here he discusses the reasons second and third marriages might be more likely to end in divorce.

Statistics have shown that 50% of first marriages, 67% of second and 73% of third marriages end in divorce. So what could be the reasons for this progressive increase in divorce rates?

One common theory is that a significant number may enter a second marriage on the rebound of the first. Often people do not allow sufficient time to recover from their first divorce, or get their priorities straight before taking their vows again. They may enter the next marriage for the wrong reasons. They are liable to repeat their mistakes, making them susceptible to similar conflicts and another broken marriage follows.

There are some individuals in second or third marriages who consider divorce manageable and not necessarily a tragedy. They have handled it once so they can handle it again. They may even recognise the warning signs earlier than they did the first time round and are quicker to react, more determined to minimise the agony.

It is argued that the prime factor affecting the break up of second marriages is that there may be less glue holding the marriage together and, in particular, children from previous marriages may be a factor.

The great majority of children born to married couples are born during the first marriage when their parents are up to 35 years old; most couples in a second marriage do not have children in common to bind them together. Furthermore, parent-child relationships can be a source of conflict in some marriages, though, overall, children act as a stabilising factor and when children are absent the marriage is prone to be rocked by minor storms.

Marriage second time around, however, can be less complicated when both parties are widowed. When these marriages happen, often in later life, the new husband and wife can often find great comfort in their new ties of affection and companionship. Older and wiser, both parties are likely to be more mature and perhaps mellower than they were the first time round. With no exes to complicate the new marriage, fond memories of former partners can be shared and are likely to be largely non-threatening to the new partner.

If you would like to talk to one of our specialist family law advisers, please call us free on 0808 302 4835 (also free to call from mobiles) or email enquiry@jacksonlees.co.uk or visit our website www.jacksonlees.co.uk

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