

# Divorce – the basics



**Tom Fisher, a solicitor specialising in Family Law at Jackson Lees' Heswall office discusses the basic questions that most people have when considering divorce.**

## How long does a divorce take?

Usually an uncontested divorce takes about four to six months to complete. However, any issues you may have to do with children or finances could mean it will take longer, often between six and 12 months.

## Can I get help to pay the mortgage and the bills?

Paying your mortgage and bills can be an immediate concern when faced with starting divorce proceedings. Your focus should be to agree a level of interim maintenance to ensure that the mortgage and the bills are paid. However, if an agreement cannot be reached then you have the right to apply to a court, through your divorce, for interim maintenance and/or to apply to the Child Support Agency for child support maintenance.

## My partner will not disclose their finances, what should I do?

It is important in any case that there is full and relevant disclosure of the family's finances and from both parties. We would make a request for voluntary financial disclosure, which includes details of all assets (including business interests), liabilities, income, outgoings and pension provision with documents in support. Where a party refuses to do this, then you are entitled through your divorce to make a financial application where the court will automatically set a court timetable for certain tasks to be completed. One of those tasks is the preparation and exchange of financial information in a form called 'Form E' with documents in support. Together we will consider the financial information disclosed and prepare relevant questions, if we feel that more information or clarification is needed.

## Where will the children live?

The living arrangements for the children need to be carefully discussed and considered when parents separate. In a lot of cases the parents are able to reach an agreement about how much time the children will spend with each of them. This might not be easy but remember that although you have rights, more importantly the children have a right to see their parents and to spend time with each of you.

**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 [family@jacksonlees.co.uk](mailto:family@jacksonlees.co.uk) or visit our website [www.jacksonlees.co.uk](http://www.jacksonlees.co.uk)**

## What Jackson Lees can do for you...

- Fixed fee options available
- Out of hours appointments from 5-7pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Hoylake office open on a Saturday (book for an appointment)
- Four local offices to choose from:
  - Heswall 0151 909 3206,
  - Hoylake 0151 909 3130,
  - Birkenhead 0151 909 3194,
  - Liverpool 0151 909 3235
- Collaborative lawyers

If you are in need of family law advice, contact our team to book an appointment or to chat through your options. Call us free from either a mobile or landline on 0808 302 4835.



## Sometimes you just need to know where you stand

We know how difficult relationships can be. If yours has broken down, we will answer any questions you have, offering you the support and compassion you need. Our tailored service offers fixed fee options and Saturday and evening appointments.

Call us on 0808 302 4835 for expert legal advice.  
[jacksonlees.co.uk](http://jacksonlees.co.uk)

Birkenhead 0151 909 3194  
Heswall 0151 909 3206  
Hoylake 0151 909 3130  
Liverpool 0151 909 3235

Jackson Lees is a trading name of Jackson Lees Group Ltd. Jackson Lees Group Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (No. 567726).

**Jackson  
Lees** 