



THE ROLE OF A FAMILY LAWYER

When a relationship breaks down, the parties involved can often feel overwhelmed by the multitude of issues that need to be addressed and it is often difficult to know where to start.

Legal experts in family and matrimonial law are trained to deal with the many and varied problems which arise when this happens.

Financial issues brought about by separation, frequently need to be addressed, including; property ownership; pension division; spousal and child maintenance; and division of non-matrimonial assets acquired during a marriage, such as inherited assets or personal injury claims.

When children are involved in a relationship breakdown, family lawyers are also trained to advise on issues relating to residence and contact matters; specific issues, such as changing a child's name or choosing what school they should go to; prohibitive orders, such as preventing the removal of a child from the jurisdiction; paternity disputes; and financial applications relating to children.

Some cases involve issues relating to domestic violence and appropriate advice should be sought regarding emergency injunctions and other orders that can help to prevent ongoing violence or harassment and deal with occupation of homes where the behaviour of one party merits exclusion from a property.

If you are experiencing any problems, such as those outlined above, seek the advice of an independent, professionally qualified, family law expert and let them guide you through the issues.

Clare Curran is a partner with Worthingtons Solicitors and is head of the Family and Matrimonial Department. Worthingtons Solicitors have offices in Bangor, Belfast and Newtownards. For further information email Clare at clare@worthingtonslaw.co.uk or telephone 028 91811538 for a free initial telephone consultation with one of our family law specialists.