



No-fault divorce explained

With the introduction of no-fault divorce on 6 April 2022, Police Federation members can access a free 45-minute consultation, and benefit from an applicant fixed-fee divorce for an exclusive discounted price of only £420 (incl. VAT), plus court fee.

What is no-fault divorce?

From 6 April 2022, the introduction of no-fault divorce means that separating spouses no longer need to assign blame in order to be granted a divorce.

What are the main changes?

Under the previous divorce law, a petitioner had to rely on one of the following five facts (two of which were fault-based) to prove the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage:

- Adultery
- Unreasonable behaviour
- Two years' separation with the respondent's consent
- Five years' separation
- Desertion

Click below to watch our expert family law solicitors answer key questions surrounding no-fault divorce.

#AskTheExperts

No-fault divorce: part one



To watch part 2 of our #AskTheExperts video, [click here](#).

There was a potential for conflict from the outset of the divorce application, caused by forcing one party to blame the other if they wished to avoid waiting two years before presenting a divorce application to the court.

The no-fault divorce legislation has changed this. As of 6 April 2022, the irretrievable breakdown of marriage remains the overall ground for divorce, abolishing the five facts and simply replacing them with a statement of irretrievable breakdown. No evidence is needed to support this.

Other changes include a 20-week timescale between issue of the application and the first stage of the divorce - the conditional order - to provide a period of reflection, and a 6-week timescale from conditional order to final order. Therefore, there's a minimum timeframe of six months from the date of application to final order.

What does our research say?

UK divorce legislation has been seen by many as outdated for some time, with the process of having to assign blame being deemed as unnecessary. In fact, our research found that 65% of people took the blame in their divorce in order to start proceedings, even though it wasn't their fault.

Our research also found that the introduction of no-fault divorce could see an increasing number of people taking the next step with their partner as almost one-third (32%) of people currently in relationships said they would now get married as the divorce process was simpler.

An additional 61% of divorcees think the divorce process should be easier and almost half (49%) of those divorced, or in the process of getting divorced, say they would've opted for a no-fault divorce if the law had allowed it.

The no-fault divorce changes how couples can apply for a divorce (there is a new joint application option), and terms and phrases have also been updated and simplified, helping to alleviate some of the stress and confusion that can be involved.

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Lawyers

65%

of divorcees took the blame in their divorce to start proceedings even though it wasn't their fault.

Why do you need a divorce lawyer?

The introduction of no-fault divorce may have made the divorce process more accessible, but legally ending a marriage can still be complex and confusing for those attempting to 'go it alone' and represent themselves. Whilst there's no legal obligation to instruct a divorce solicitor, there are several procedures and deadlines which must be followed correctly.

With this in mind, it's always best to seek the advice of a divorce expert to guide you through the process and make sure all is in order, helping you to avoid any complications or additional court fees at a later stage.

When navigating through the divorce process, one benefit of working with our specialist divorce solicitors is their ability to simplify the legal jargon involved as it's vital that you fully understand the divorce process and the implications of various stages. A family law specialist will also keep you updated with any deadlines that you must adhere to, ensuring the process runs as smoothly as possible. For example, there are specific timelines in which a respondent must file an acknowledgement of service.

Georgina Chase, the head of our Family Law department, said:

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Despite the removal of blame in the divorce process, it's still crucial to seek expert legal advice. Not only will accessing expert advice allow the divorce process to go as smoothly as possible but a divorce will only legally end the marriage and does not resolve the financial aspects of a divorce, nor arrangements for children and a professional should be sought to advise on these important family law issues.

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Our expert family law solicitors offer tailored legal advice for you and your family's needs and we're specialist in all areas of police pensions and shift patterns. We understand that making this decision can be difficult. We've been advising and supporting officers for more than 60 years, providing straightforward guidance to help you move forward with clarity and confidence.

[Click here](#) to discover how we recently supported a police officer through his divorce to achieve a favourable outcome.

As a police federation member, you have access to a free 45-minute initial consultation. To speak to one of our expert family lawyers, please contact us on [0808 175 7710](tel:08081757710), and we'll be happy to help.

If you're looking for a fresh start, contact us on [0808 175 7710](tel:08081757710) or [visit our website](#) to speak in confidence with a specialist divorce lawyer who will help guide you through your options and choose your next steps with confidence.

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