BLANDY & BLANDY

solicitors

Our Family Team

Representing you in
life & business

Trusted legal
advice since
1733

"Blandy & Blandy's wealth of experience in Family Law is second to none."

Chambers UK

Why choose us?

We recognise that a relationship breakdown and other family related issues can be complex, as well as emotionally and financially challenging for you.

At every stage, we aim to provide you with the information, advice and support needed to make informed decisions and to achieve the best outcome for you and your family.

1. LEADING REPUTATION

We are widely acknowledged as one of the Thames Valley's leading firms of Family Law solicitors, with conveniently located offices in Reading, Henley-on-Thames and London.

2. APPROACHABLE SERVICE

Listening carefully to your needs and aims, we are committed to providing clear, practical and effective legal advice, a responsive and highly personal conveyancing service and, crucially, value for money.

3. OUTSTANDING CLIENT CARE

In our most recent annual survey, 99% of clients said that they would recommend our firm to others, while 100% rated their experience as either 'good' or 'excellent'.

4. RANKINGS AND RECOGNITION

We are the only firm with offices in both Reading and Henley-on-Thames to be recognised as a top tier firm of Family Law solicitors in the UK's leading guides to law firms, Chambers UK and The Legal 500. In 2018, we were named as a finalist for 'Family Law Firm of the Year - South' at the UK-wide Family Law Awards.

5. A JOINED-UP APPROACH

You can rely on our specialist expertise in areas other than Family Law, if needed, including Wills and estate planning, property and advice in relation to your business interests.

Choosing a solicitor to represent you

DO YOUR RESEARCH

By far the best way of finding a good Family Law solicitor to represent you is to obtain a personal recommendation. Speak to friends, family and colleagues to see if they have personal knowledge.

Compare and find out more about firms by taking a look at their websites. Are they informative and up to date? Is Family Law a core part of their offering and expertise? Pay particular attention to feedback and reviews from clients, including via platforms like Google Reviews.

ARE THEY A SPECIALIST FAMILY LAWYER?

The area of Family Law is fast moving and only a solicitor who spends all their time working in this field can stay abreast of all the developments. The two legal directories, Chambers UK Guide and The Legal 500, give details of leading departments and individuals and are available to view free of charge online.

"They are easily one of, if not the best, Family Law firms in the area."

The Legal 500

LOCATION

Don't necessarily limit yourself to firms within your locality. Most work can now be done remotely, via telephone, email and video conferencing. Solicitors are often willing to travel to see you for an initial or subsequent meetings. Many regional firms can offer the same quality of advice at half or even one third of the rates of London lawyers and they often instruct the same barristers and other experts and appear in the same Courts.

FIND A SOLICITOR WHO WILL ADOPT A CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH

Solicitors who are members of Resolution are committed to resolving disputes in a non-confrontational way where possible.

DO THEY OFFER VALUE FOR MONEY?

It is important to ensure that you can tap into the knowledge and experience of a more senior solicitor. However, some of the work can be done by another person who may be less qualified and have less experience and who therefore charges less. Choose a firm which has a reasonably large family team, with solicitors across a range of levels.

Don't be tempted to choose what might appear to be a less expensive solicitor at the expense of expertise and quality. A good solicitor might be able to do the same job in half the time. In any event, a poor job could cost you more in the long run.

ACCESS TO OTHER AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Divorce can throw up issues in other areas of law, for example in relation to property, Wills and business interests. Choose a firm which offers a range of services so that you and your divorce lawyer will have easy access to the expertise of solicitors in other fields.

Finding the right approach for you

Recognising the need to find the right approach for you, a member of our team can discuss and help to assess your individual situation and provide clear and practical advice on a way forward which will achieve the best outcome for you and your family, while helping to carefully manage costs.

All of our solicitors are members of Family Law body Resolution and committed to its ethos of adopting a constructive approach to resolving family disputes.

As such, we offer several alternatives to Court litigation, providing you with the opportunity to deal with matters in this way and without the need to attend Court.

COLLABORATIVE LAW

Collaborative Law is a means of resolving family disputes by avoiding the need to go to Court. The process works by putting the couples in charge of the process, and involves a series of four way face to face meetings at which both parties and their solicitors are committed to working together to resolve the issues without going to Court. Other financial or therapeutic professionals can also be involved to provide on-hand expertise. Collaborative working aims to limit confrontation and to help couples reach a satisfactory resolution. Our team includes trained collaborative lawyers.

MEDIATION

Mediation is a voluntary process in which an independent third party works with a couple to help them arrive at a mutually acceptable settlement. Mediation can take place at different stages following a relationship breakdown and can prove quicker, cheaper and less contentious than other methods. Importantly, however, the mediator doesn't provide advice and so you may wish to retain a lawyer to advise and support you outside of the mediation sessions or, in some circumstances, join you in the sessions themselves. A family mediator can facilitate discussions on both financial matters and those relating to children. Our team includes trained mediators.

ARBITRATION

Family arbitration is a private adjudication process which replaces courtroom proceedings. Clients exercise more choice and control than in litigation because they can choose which arbitrator (judge) to appoint and agree the format of proceedings. An arbitrator can decide financial or child-related disputes and makes a binding 'award' at the end of the process. The award is then converted into a court order. Our lawyers have experience in this area and can advise if arbitration is suitable in your case.

We are also experienced in using other out of court methods including round table meetings and private financial dispute resolution hearings (FDRs).

"The support from Blandy & Blandy was brilliant throughout and I would recommend them all in a heartbeat."

Client

Divorce & related matters

Obtaining a divorce can be straightforward, particularly if you and your spouse agree that the marriage is over. Any difficulties that arise tend to relate more to resolving the practical issues, such as how to separate, where to live, arrangements for any children and financial matters. Specialist legal advice on these areas is recommended, and we can guide you through the divorce process to make it more streamlined.

WHO CAN START DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS?

Anyone who has been married for over a year can start divorce proceedings, provided that they can satisfy one of the criteria below. It does not matter where the marriage took place.

- Both spouses are habitually resident in England or Wales.
- Both spouses were last jointly habitually resident in England or Wales and one of them still resides here.
- The spouse not starting the proceedings is still habitually resident in England or Wales.
- The spouse starting the proceedings is habitually resident in England and Wales and has been for the past 12 months.
- The spouse starting the proceedings is domiciled in England or Wales and has been residing here for at least 6 months.
- Both parties are domiciled here.

ON WHAT GROUNDS CAN A DIVORCE PETITION BE STARTED?

The only ground for divorce is that your marriage has irretrievably broken down. Whilst this area of law is due to be reformed in late 2021 to a 'non-fault-based' system, at present in order to prove this, the person seeking the divorce, ("the Petitioner"), needs to establish one of the following five facts laid down by law:

- The other spouse (the "Respondent") has committed adultery and the Petitioner finds it intolerable to continue living with them.
- The Respondent has behaved in such a way that the Petitioner cannot reasonably be expected to live with them.
- The Respondent has deserted the Petitioner for a continuous period of two years or more (a petition on this basis is rare).
- Both spouses have been living separately for two years or more and the Respondent consents to the divorce.
- Both spouses have been living separately for five years or more, whether or not the Respondent consents to the divorce.

"If you are considering support for a divorce or a legal battle, then this is the firm you want on your side. Even the magistrates were impressed by their work."

Client

Divorce & related matters

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The document (the "petition") which starts the proceedings must be prepared. It is recommended practice to try to agree the content of the petition with your spouse, which gives him or her an opportunity to see it before any proceedings are commenced. This can help to speed up the process and to make things less acrimonious.

Every petition follows the same form. It contains basic information about names, addresses, ages of any children and a statement that the marriage has irretrievably broken down. It also states the 'fact' which is being relied on with supporting information.

The petition also contains a section (the "prayer") which includes the request for the divorce to be granted and for orders for financial provision and any claim for costs in relation to the divorce. A request for the full range of financial orders is quite standard and does not necessarily mean that such orders will be pursued. It is sensible to try and agree how the costs will be paid/shared before the proceedings are commenced if possible.

Once the petition is completed it is sent to the Court, together with the Marriage Certificate, to be 'issued' (processed by the Court and allocated a case number). A Court fee is payable. It is now possible to submit a petition to the Court online.

TIMETABLE FOR UNDEFENDED PROCEEDINGS

Generally an undefended divorce takes between four and six months, as explained below.

Within a few days of sending the petition to the Court the Respondent will be sent a copy of it.

Within seven working days of receiving the petition, the Respondent should file at Court a form called an "Acknowledgement of Service". This form asks the Respondent whether he or she intends to defend the petition and whether any claim for costs is disputed.

If the Respondent intends to defend the petition (and whether or not an Acknowledgement has been filed) he or she must within 28 days of its receipt (longer if the documents have to be sent to an address abroad) file a defence called an 'Answer'. This is a strict deadline. The petition then becomes defended and the procedure outlined below does not apply. Defended divorce proceedings resulting in a fully contested hearing are very rare. However, a delay in finalising the divorce is inevitable. Defended divorce will become impossible under the pending divorce legislation due for implementation in late 2021.

Shortly after receiving the Acknowledgement of Service from the Respondent, the Court sends a copy of it to the Petitioner or their solicitor.

If the Respondent does not return an Acknowledgement of Service to the Court the Petitioner will have to obtain proof that the Respondent has received the petition before he or she can take the next step. This may involve arranging for someone to deliver the petition to the Respondent personally or, exceptionally, obtaining a Court Order that proof does not need to be given that the Respondent has received the petition. This is called "dispensing with service".

If the Respondent is not defending the petition the Petitioner can apply for the Decree Nisi to be pronounced. The Petitioner's solicitor prepares a short Statement for the Petitioner to approve confirming that the contents of the petition are true. The Statement also states whether any circumstances have changed since the filing of the petition. The Petitioner will approve an online application for Decree Nisi or sign a statement of truth in the case of a paper petition, and the Statement will be sent to the Court with a request for a date for the first decree of divorce ('Decree Nisi') to be pronounced.

When the Court receives the application for a date for pronouncement of the Decree Nisi and the Statement, a Court official looks through the submission and, if satisfied that the Petitioner has proved that the marriage has broken down irretrievably, sets a date for the Decree Nisi to be pronounced which is recorded on a certificate. Both the Petitioner and the Respondent (through their solicitors) are then advised of the date fixed for Decree Nisi. The date is likely to be a few weeks after the application is lodged. There is no requirement to attend Court, unless there is a dispute about costs, in which case the Decree Nisi hearing can be transferred to a more local Court.

Six weeks and one day after the date of Decree Nisi the Petitioner may apply for the final decree ('Decree Absolute') by sending the appropriate form to the Court. There can, however, be advantages in delaying this application until financial matters have been resolved. If an application is made, the decree will be granted and can be available as quickly as the same day. The Decree Absolute terminates the marriage.

If the Petitioner does not apply for the Decree Absolute the Respondent may apply for it three months after the Petition could first have applied.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

Please see page 12.

WHAT ABOUT THE FINANCES?

In parallel with the divorce itself, it is usually necessary to agree and formalise how you and your spouse will deal with your finances. Generally, the first step is to identify what assets you and your spouse have an interest in and the potential value of the same before going on to decide how best to arrange the finances in the future in order to meet the needs of you and your family. Once an agreement is reached, the terms need to be recorded in a formal way.

We are experienced in advising on a variety of situations, including those with complex and high value assets, perhaps involving significant property and business assets, trusts or international interests.

We can advise on the most appropriate way to resolve your family finances depending on your particular circumstances.

ARE FINANCIAL ISSUES DEALT WITH BEFORE THE DIVORCE IS FINALISED?

It is not necessary for financial issues to have been resolved by the time the divorce is final. Frequently, negotiations will still be in the early stages if finances are complicated. However, it is not uncommon for the final stage of the divorce (the "decree absolute") to be delayed until the financial issues have been resolved. Indeed, there may be reasons why this delay is desirable in order to prevent undue financial hardship and we can advise in this area if required.

Unmarried couples

THE MYTH OF THE COMMON LAW MARRIAGE

More unmarried couples are living together ("cohabiting") than ever before, yet many are unaware of the legal status of their relationship and how this can affect one another's rights in the future.

Many cohabitees mistakenly believe themselves to be a part of a 'common-law marriage'. The reality, however, is that unmarried couples do not enjoy or acquire any special rights in relation to one other.

Accordingly, should your relationship end, whether through separation or sadly the death of a partner, you would be treated in law as if you are two unrelated individuals, no matter how long you have lived together.

WE CAN HELP IN TWO WAYS:

- **At the outset of the relationship** - by drawing up legal documents which set out what would happen in the event of your relationship breaking down, to avoid any disputes in the future.
- **In the event of your relationship ending** - on your rights and the available remedies. These include claims on behalf of any children.

WHAT IS A COHABITATION AGREEMENT OR A DEED OF TRUST?

A Cohabitation Agreement sets out the agreed legal arrangements between unmarried couples living together and covers issues such as routine financial arrangements and what would happen if the relationship should break down. The agreement could also address provision for any children you share.

A separate Deed of Trust may be needed if you co-own, or intend to co-own, a property together.

We can advise on and draft agreements in advance of your decision to live together, or if you are already cohabiting with your partner.

We will discuss the issues that are important for you to consider and include in the agreement, and work with your partner and their lawyer to ensure transparency of financial information before we draft the agreement.

WHAT FINANCIAL PROVISION CAN BE MADE IF OUR RELATIONSHIP BREAKS DOWN?

When cohabiting couples separate, neither has any special rights by virtue of the cohabitation. The Court's powers are limited, being restricted to ascertaining and declaring property interests based on property and trust principles. The Court has no power to adjust these interests in order to achieve what is 'fair'.

Where there are children from the relationship, claims can be made under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 for a parent to make provision for the benefit of those children. The application can be made by a parent, step-parent, guardian or any person who is named in a Child Arrangements Order as having a child living with them.

An application can be made on behalf of children who are under the age of 16 (or under the age of 18 if in full time education) for a) Transfer or settlement of property b) Lump sums; and/or c). Periodical payments.

Making arrangements for children

One of the most important parts of dealing with relationship breakdown is to try to minimise the negative effects on any children, by agreeing childcare arrangements as soon as possible and establishing a familiar routine. There can sometimes be different views on how much time a child should spend with each parent, where they should be educated, their religion or health and wellbeing, whether a child should be taken out of the country on holiday or where the child should live.

You may agree a voluntary 'parenting plan' to cover these arrangements. If decisions on child arrangements cannot be agreed informally between parents, they can be decided by a Court. However, before filing Court proceedings, parents are normally expected to try a form of dispute resolution such as mediation or collaborative law, unless there are emergency issues.

We can help and support you to ensure that arrangements for your children are settled quickly and, if possible, in an amicable manner. We offer mediation services, collaborative law and round table options to resolve disputes involving children. If your case requires an urgent application to Court, we can assist and guide you through the litigation process Where you are unable agree on such arrangements the Court can make the necessary decisions, with the child's best interests as their paramount consideration. Generally it is presumed that it will be in the child's best interests to spend time with both parents, unless there is a very serious welfare issue and risk of harm. Court cases often involve the appointment of a specialist social worker to report to the Court on the family's unique circumstances.

In emergency situations, it may be necessary to apply for an urgent Court Order in respect of your child or children. For example, where there is a risk of a child being removed from the country without your consent, or an urgent medical issue. These applications can be made in an expedited fashion where necessary. However, it is unusual for Courts to grant orders without hearing from the other parent first.

We are experienced in working for both parents as well as step-parents. We also advise and support grandparents where they wish to spend time with their grandchildren.

"I can't thank Blandy & Blandy enough for all the help you have given me, not only with my divorce but also with the children, and I will have no hesitation in recommending you to any friends or colleagues."

Client

How to tell your children about separation and divorce

We understand that explaining the situation to your children can be a daunting and difficult task. To help and support everyone involved, our advice is:

1. Ideally, aim to tell your children when you are both together. Seek to discuss things properly in advance and agree on what you are going to say.
2. You should both participate in talking to your children. This helps to demonstrate that the decision to separate is a joint decision which you are both comfortable with – but it is a good idea to also make sure that you say this to your children.
3. Tell your children that you are separating because of differences between you both and that your decision is absolutely nothing to do with anything they have said or done at any stage.
4. Be sure you to say that your relationship and love for them will not be affected in any way by the separation.
5. Always tell the truth, as fully as possible, but avoid giving detailed information or saying anything that may upset or worry them.
6. Have the conversation over a weekend so they have time to digest the information and talk to you when you are both more likely to be around.
7. Explain that they don't have to ask questions if they don't want to, but that they can come to either of you at any time.
8. Make it clear that you realise how this decision may upset or worry them and that you appreciate that it will have an impact on them long after you have separated.
9. Tell them that you are working together to continue to be the best parents possible.
10. Try to identify a neutral third party or consider a professional child counsellor that they might be able to talk to if they have questions or concerns.

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Client

Other areas we can help with

NUPTIAL AGREEMENTS

Nuptial Agreements are drawn up either before ("pre-nuptial") or after ("post-nuptial") a marriage, to set out the agreed financial arrangements in the event of a divorce or dissolution of a civil partnership.

Although they do not currently have legal recognition in the UK, the Courts are becoming increasingly willing to take the terms of such agreements into account and to hold the parties to them. We can advise on and draw up a Nuptial Agreement at any stage in your relationship.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

If you and/or your children are at risk of or are experiencing domestic abuse, please contact the police and seek legal advice immediately. Domestic abuse can take many forms including physical abuse, emotional, sexual, psychological and financial abuse, as well as coercive control. If you are suffering domestic abuse, you may be able to apply to Court for an injunction, which is a form of temporary legal protection, known as a "Non-Molestation Order". This protects you and/or your children from harm and gives police the power to arrest the perpetrator if s/he breaches the order.

You can also apply for an "Occupation Order", which asks the Court to decide who can and cannot occupy the family home. These applications can be complex, and legal assistance is advisable. Non-Molestation and Occupation Orders usually last between 6 – 12 months but can be extended in the right circumstances. This period of time can give an important reprieve to allow parties to deal with other issues such as financial or child arrangements.

We can advise and assist on preparing the applications for Non-Molestation and Occupation Orders to Court, including drafting the legal forms and a detailed statement of the facts. You will need to attend Court, and we can support and assist by attending Court with you. Where appropriate, we can make special arrangements to ensure that you will not come into direct contact with the other party at Court. We can also arrange for a specialist barrister to present your case in Court.

If there are further hearings, we will help you to prepare and draft the documentation required. We will advise you at every stage until the process is complete. If there is a case to extend an existing order, we can help with this and advise you in relation to any breaches that occur. You should always contact the police in the first instance if a perpetrator breaches a Non-Molestation or Occupation Order.

SURROGACY

Surrogacy is the process by which a woman ("surrogate") carries a child for another person or a couple ("the intended parent(s)"), usually with the intention of transferring her legal rights, duties and obligations in respect of that child to the intended parents by way of a 'Parental Order', which is made through the Courts.

In some cases, the surrogate's own eggs are used to create the embryo, in other cases the intended parent's egg is used, or a donor egg. IVF procedures are used to create an embryo which is transferred in to the surrogate's uterus.

The surrogacy arrangement may be domestic (i.e. take place in England and Wales), or it may be international. If so, consideration will need to be given to immigration matters.

In England and Wales, the woman who gives birth to the child (the surrogate) is recognised in law as that child's legal mother, even if she has no biological link to that child.

It is therefore necessary for intended parents to apply for a Parental Order, to confer all the rights, duties, responsibilities in relation to that child to them, and for them to be recognised as the child's

Other areas we can help with

legal parents, and extinguish the surrogate's (and her spouse's if she is married) parentage.

It is important for the surrogate and the intended parents to take legal advice before proceeding, and as early as possible. We are here to offer support, advice and assistance through what can be a complex, emotional and momentous journey.

We can help, whether you are a surrogate or the intended parent(s) considering a surrogacy arrangement, and advise in relation to the application for a Parental Order, including preparation of the necessary paperwork and provision of representation at the Court hearings. We can advise on any risks involved at each stage should a dispute unfortunately arise.

ENFORCING AN AGREEMENT OR COURT ORDER

If you have not been paid what you are due under a Court Order, this is a breach of the Order and you can seek to enforce it through the Courts. There are various Court enforcement mechanisms which are available, either to enforce payments of one off amounts which are outstanding (e.g. lump sum orders) or to enforce arrears of regular ongoing payments (e.g. arrears of maintenance). However if you want to enforce maintenance arrears which are over 12 months old, you need permission of the Court, so it is important not to delay taking action. We can advise on the most efficient and cost effective approach depending on the circumstances.

If an agreement breaks down in relation to child arrangements, there are various options to consider depending on whether or not there is a Court Order in place. We are well placed to support you in considering the best way to get arrangements back on track.

APPEALING A JUDICIAL DECISION

An appeal is a means of challenging a judicial decision which has been made in family proceedings and the process can be a complex one. Family arbitration awards can also be challenged in the same way as family court decisions.

There are strict time limits for appealing a decision of the lower family courts, in most cases 21 days from the original decision, so it is important to act quickly. It might be possible to obtain permission to appeal out of time, but this should not be relied on and any delay in taking action might prove fatal to the application.

Case law suggests that appeals should only be allowed if:

- there was a procedural irregularity
- the Judge failed to take account of relevant matters or took account of irrelevant matters
- the decision was "plainly wrong"

An appeal is usually limited to a review of the decision or order, unless the Judge considers that, in the circumstances of the case, it would be in the interests of justice to hold a rehearing. Fresh evidence is not normally allowed.

In the majority of cases, the Judge may set aside or vary the order, make another order in substitution, remit the matter for re-hearing or further consideration, or order a new trial to take place before him or another Judge.

An application for a re-hearing is appropriate where no error of the Court is alleged, but where the Court did not have the material facts before it. This might be because of a material non-disclosure, where the factual basis on which the original order was made was incorrect or where there was fraud, mistake or a misrepresentation. On a re-hearing, further evidence can be admitted and considered.

Where parties have agreed a financial settlement and entered into a Consent Order, this cannot be appealed. A Consent Order can be set aside in very limited circumstances, for example if it can be shown that the parties' agreement was reached on the basis of a serious mistake by one of the parties, or as a result of fraud or a serious misrepresentation, or in circumstances where one party had not disclosed all the material facts to the other. Action needs to be taken very swiftly as soon as the mistake, fraud or non-disclosure comes to light.

YOUR FUTURE

The importance of having an up to date Will cannot be underestimated and divorce or separation, a change to your financial position and needing to update matters in relation to children over time are all key reasons to review and update yours. Our Wills, Probate, Tax & Trusts team, recognised among the most established and respected in the region, can provide expert advice, including in relation to trusts and lifetime tax planning, as well as on drawing up Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) if required.

This may be of particular significance if you own a property with a partner from whom you are separating. A jointly owned property can be held in one of two ways – as "beneficial joint tenants" (The joint owners are equally entitled to the property. On the death of one joint tenant the property will automatically pass to the surviving owner(s)) or as "tenants in common" (the property is held by the owners in specific shares, usually unequal. On the death of one tenant, the property does not pass automatically to the surviving owner(s) but instead passes according to the terms of the deceased's Will or, if none, under the rules of Intestacy). We can provide expert advice in this area.

YOUR PROPERTY

Buying or selling property is sometimes considered to be one of life's more challenging experiences. Our award-winning Residential Property team is committed to ensuring that this isn't the case and can advise on sales and purchases of all sizes and levels of complexity.

YOUR BUSINESS INTERESTS

We are experienced in providing businesses (with turnovers ranging from under £1 million to over £100 million) and their owners with a full range of legal services, including advising on disputes between shareholders and the restructuring or sale of all or part of a business or its assets.

Funding legal fees in family cases

There are a number of different options as to how you can fund your legal fees. Potential options include private funding, third party funding, litigation loans and Legal Services Orders. We will be happy to discuss your costs and funding options with you in more detail, so that you can decide on the best route for you.

PRIVATE FUNDING

Our fees can be paid from your income and/or savings.

BORROWING PRIVATELY

You can fund your case through personal borrowing: either commercial, by way of bank loan or credit card facility; or non-commercial borrowing from friends or family. If a third party pays your fees on your behalf directly to us, it will be necessary for the firm to carry out due diligence checks on that individual.

LITIGATION LOANS

There are specialist providers who offer loans for the specific purpose of funding family law cases. With some of these products, you only paying interest on funds which are used to meet costs, rather than the whole amount of the initial loan requested, and are re-payable upon conclusion of the financial settlement. Interest usually accrues on the monies that are used to discharge your legal fees, and most providers will require you to obtain independent legal advice in relation to the loan agreement.

LEGAL SERVICES ORDERS

In certain circumstances it is possible to obtain an order from the court which specifies that the other party i.e. your spouse, should meet your legal costs. Such orders cannot be made unless the court is satisfied that without it, you would not be able to obtain appropriate legal advice and that you cannot reasonably obtain funding from another source.

LEGAL AID/PUBLIC FUNDING

Legal aid is available for private law matters in certain limited circumstances, and for public law matters. We do not offer Legal Aid, but if you believe that you may be eligible for public funding we can direct you to other local firms who offer this service.

"Blandy's have a formidable reputation in the region dealing with high-value divorce cases and complex children matters and quite rightly deserve a top tier ranking."

The Legal 500

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"I have lost track of the number of times I have recommended them and never once heard any negative feedback. Top drawer firm full stop."

Professional Adviser

"The team at Blandy & Blandy were fantastic throughout, and simply cannot be recommended highly enough."

Client

"The service offered by Blandy & Blandy was exceptional. You've renewed my faith in solicitors!"

Client

"Blandy & Blandy did a wonderful job and I am very glad to have had them representing me."

Client

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All of our materials are primarily designed for digital use but if we do print small quantities, we are committed to doing so sustainably and everything we produce is easily recyclable.