



# DISSOLVING A MARRIAGE

---

---

**A divorce has to be obtained to bring a marriage to a legal end under the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020.**

- You cannot apply for a divorce until you have been married for a period of at least one year.
- To begin the process, the applicant files for a divorce online. The applicant must provide a statement of irretrievable breakdown with the application.
- Each party can apply for divorce, or alternatively, the parties may make a joint application.
- The current court fee to issue a divorce application is £593.

- At court, the divorce application will be considered by a Judge without any hearing or attendance by the parties. The divorce application is then sent to the respondent within 28 days of the issue date for acknowledgement to be completed and returned to the court.
- The 20 week cooling off period then begins and the applicant receives a notice to file for Conditional Order.
- At the end of the 20 weeks, the applicant applies for the Conditional Order and a Judge will review this. A pronouncement date is then set.
- 6 weeks and one day after the Conditional Order pronouncement date, the Final Order can be applied for.
- 1-3 days later, the Final Order is granted and the divorce is finalised.

This is a new streamlined online process which is not without its pitfalls and we would suggest anyone contemplating divorce seek advice.

**For more information please contact us:**



**Alison Green**

Partner | Head of Family  
& Relationship Team



**Alison.Green@mackrell.com**



**Melissa Doherty**

Associate | Family &  
Relationship Team



**Melissa.Doherty@mackrell.com**



**Savoy Hill House, London, WC2R 0BU**



**5 The Wharf, Birmingham, B1 2JS**

**mackrell.com**



Although helpful, the brief information included in this document is intended as a guide only and does not constitute legal advice. For more detailed information regarding any of the matters raised in this document tailored to suit your specific circumstances please contact a member of our team.

This guide was correct at time of publication and is not a substitute for legal advice.

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. SRA numbers 63687 & 667588.