

## INITIAL ADVICE MEETING

### 1. What is an Initial Advice Meeting?

A meeting of about an hour, dependant on the complexity and number of your issues, with **Lisa Broddle**, Head of the Family Team, Solicitor, Family and Collaborative Lawyer, Accredited Family Mediator or with **Annie Tanielian**, Solicitor and Family Lawyer.

### 2. What does an Initial Advice Meeting cover?

#### 2.1 You and Your Family

You will tell us about yourself, your concerns, your former partner and your children. The finances and wishes for the future and family change.

#### 2.2 Your Children

We will discuss your children and their individual needs, your preferences and those of your former partner. We will consider practical arrangements, communication, Parenting Plans and the court orders that can be obtained if you are not able to resolve arrangements for your children directly with your former partner or with the help of another. We will look at the process options available to parents including discussion between the parents, mediation, the collaborative process, solicitor negotiation, arbitration or the court process.

#### 2.3 Divorce/ Separation/ Civil Partnership Dissolution

We will explain the procedure for obtaining a divorce or dissolution of a civil partnership or separation, the facts that can be used, the forms, court fees, timescales and the orders that will be obtained. We will apply the law to your circumstances and discuss your preferences.

#### 2.4 Financial Arrangements

We will consider the law, the financial remedies available, such as, transfer of property, lump sum, spousal maintenance, child maintenance and pension sharing. We will look at the statutory factors which are weighed when considering a financial settlement and we will apply your circumstances to the law and the possible outcomes. We will explain and discuss with you the process options available to resolve the finances on separation or divorce; mediation, collaborative law, solicitor negotiation, personal discussion between the parties with issue specific legal advice, arbitration or the court process. Explaining the processes, the need for disclosure, how remarriage or cohabitation affects financial claims and what could happen in the future if finances are not resolved within the divorce / dissolution / separation process. We will explain child maintenance options; voluntary arrangements, statutory arrangements through the Child Support Agency or by a Consent Order via the court and the formulas used to calculate child maintenance.

#### 2.5 Wills

We will discuss the need for you to have a Will or amend an existing Will, as until your marriage is formally ended, your spouse is entitled to inherit from you either

under the Intestacy Rules, if you have not already made a Will or under the terms of your Will if you have made provision is made for them in that Will.

## **2.6 Advice in Your Report Letter and Further Information**

In the meeting you will be provided with a folder of information, and we will prepare a **Report Letter**, if you wish us to do this, setting out your circumstances and the advice provided so that you may refer to it to consider your best next steps with costs estimates and use to discuss with the people you trust.

## **3. What Other Meetings are Available?**

If you wish to explain your situation to us, for us to apply the law to your circumstances, receive advice in the meeting, become a client of Stone Rowe Brewer LLP and receive a report letter you need to book **An Initial Advice Meeting**. You can also consider a **Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting** or an **Options Information Meeting**.

## **4. How much does an Initial Advice Meeting cost?**

The Meeting is likely to be about an hour dependent on the complexity of the issue. We are offering an **Initial Advice Meeting** at a reduced fixed fee. A Report Letter can be prepared and paid for separately. We request payment prior to the meeting. Please contact us about the current charges.

## **5. Administration**

We will need your former partner's full name, address and date of birth for an internal Conflict of Interest check (your former partner will not be contacted) Once we have received the payment on account of costs, you will receive an email with the link to download the Verify 365 ID App. Please download the App and follow the instructions to photograph your passport, driving licence and proof of address requested. If your bill will be paid by a friend or relative, the Verify 365 procedure will need to be followed by them also and a fee will be paid per person, per search. If you have done this already recently at SRB, the search can be used for this file.

## **6. What happens after the Initial Advice Meeting?**

Once you have reviewed the advice and information and feel ready to progress matters you can return to us for more advice or to proceed with your chosen course of action.

## **7. How do I make an appointment?**

Please contact us to make an appointment for an **Initial Advice Meeting**:

**Lisa Broddle**, Partner, Head of Family Team, Solicitor and Collaborative Lawyer. Accredited Family Mediator: [l.broddle@srb.co.uk](mailto:l.broddle@srb.co.uk)

**Annie Tanielian**, Solicitor, Family Team: [a.tanielian@srb.co.uk](mailto:a.tanielian@srb.co.uk)

**Faiza Batth**, Legal Secretary and Family Paralegal Accredited by CILEX: [f.batth@srb.co.uk](mailto:f.batth@srb.co.uk)

Family Team: [familyteam@srb.co.uk](mailto:familyteam@srb.co.uk)

**Lisa Broddle**, [l.broddle@srb.co.uk](mailto:l.broddle@srb.co.uk)

Solicitor, Family and Collaborative Lawyer, Accredited Family Mediator

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