



Divorce

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GET A DIVORCE?

Divorce is the legal end to marriage. However, a divorce will *not* automatically resolve financial or parenting issues with your former spouse.

Once divorced, you only have 12 months to make an application to the Court for a property settlement.

WHEN CAN I GET A DIVORCE?

You must have been separated from your former spouse for at least 12 months in order to obtain a divorce.

IS IT DIFFICULT TO GET A DIVORCE?

Obtaining a divorce is simpler than resolving financial and parenting matters. However, problems can arise. In our experience, the most common issues are:

- if proper arrangements have not been made for minor children
- if your former spouse cannot be located

- if your former spouse disagrees about the date of separation and believes it was less than 12 months between separation and when the divorce application was filed.

SHORT MARRIAGES

If you were married for less than two years, unless there are special circumstances, you and your former spouse will need to attend counselling and obtain a Counselling Certificate before making an application for divorce.

IS IT EXPENSIVE TO GET A DIVORCE?

- From 1 July 2014, the Court's fee for an Application for Divorce is \$845 (or \$280 if eligible for the reduced fee), plus
- If your former spouse refuses to sign an Acknowledgement that they have received the Application, it may cost a further \$50-\$120 to have them "served" with the documents, plus
- Legal fees of \$950 (inc GST)

Totalling about \$1,800 to \$1,900