OPENING HOURS
8.30pm to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday

FREE EVENING SURGERY
We can advise you on any legal matter at our legal surgery which is held each Monday & Thursday from 3.30pm until 5.30pm.

FREE DIVORCE & FAMILY CONSULTATIONS
For divorce and family matters we offer a free initial interview. These must be booked in advance and in certain circumstances can be booked for a Tuesday evening. Contact us for more details.

OUT OF HOURS & HOME VISITS
Home visits and out of hours appointments can be arranged where appropriate. Also, outside office hours in cases of emergency, you can contact us on 07785531221

FUNDING YOUR WORK
We are always up-front about our costs and expenses and are able to offer different funding options according to the advice that you need. Where appropriate, we can provide “no win, no fee” agreements; insurance backed claims; deferred fee agreements; quotations based on hourly rates; matrimonial fee funding and litigation funding; and fixed fees.
DIVORCE AND DISSOLUTION
A divorce/dissolution is an order made by the court which puts an end to the legal status of your relationship. There is a similar procedure followed in both to a petition filing for divorce or dissolution and although there are legal costs and court fees involved, Bromleys offer a fixed fee service for uncontested divorces/dissolutions. Before you can petition for divorce/dissolution you must have been married for at least one year immediately prior to presenting the petition at court and the court must be satisfied that the relationship has irretrievably broken down. You must be able to rely on one of a number of facts which you must cite in the petition, these range from adultery, unreasonable behaviour, desertion, separation for two years (with the consent of the other partner) or a five year separation without consent.

The length of time a divorce/dissolution can take varies but they would on average take between 4 and 6 months. Again, contrary to popular belief and the impression given in the tabloid press, there is no such thing in England and Wales as a “quickie divorce”. Bromleys can give advice and assistance on this.

SEPARATION AGREEMENTS
Some couples, whether married, in a civil partnership, or who have been cohabiting, sometimes wish to formalise their separation by way of a separation agreement. It may be for reasons of a religious or cultural nature that they do not wish to formally divorce, or do not wish to issue a petition for divorce or dissolution immediately and will, therefore, try to reach an agreement and record that agreement in a separation agreement. Whilst a separation agreement is not legally binding, a court may attach a great deal of weight to such a document if it fully records the intentions of the parties in detail and has been prepared with both partners and the assistance of independent legal advice.

A separation agreement can cover issues that have been in dispute, such as finances, children, the timing and sale of the former matrimonial/cohabitational home and maintenance issues. Bromleys team of experts can assist you in drafting up such a separation agreement.

ARE SOLICITORS STILL INVOLVED?
Prenuptial Agreements or (Anti-nuptial Agreements as they are sometimes known) are becoming increasingly popular as partners try to seek agreement prior to entering into a marriage or civil partnership and agreement how finances, children and maintenance issues can be agreed should the relationship end in divorce/dissolution. Traditionally such agreements have not been legally binding in England and Wales although recent landmark decisions in the court mean that, subject to certain qualifying conditions being met, courts can recognise prenuptial agreements as being legally binding.

Anybody wishing to enter a prenuptial agreement will require specialised legal advice and again, Bromleys law team can provide such expert advice.

COHABITATION AGREEMENTS
Some partners who intend to live together without going through the formality or legal recognition of a marriage or civil partnership try to regulate what they would like to happen in the event that the relationship does not work out and the partners end up separating. This can be done by drawing up cohabitation agreements. This is particularly important where, for example, one party may own a property or cohabitational home and the other party may have no legal status in that home. As stated above, there is no such thing in English law as “common-law marriage” and drawing up a cohabitation agreement is a sensible step to try to regulate and show the intention of the partners, should they separate. It should be noted that cohabitation agreements are not legally binding in English law but if a dispute arises that results in the separation going before the courts, the courts can take in to account the details of cohabitation agreements in certain circumstances by deciding the outcome of the dispute. Bromleys are able to offer advice on the drafting of cohabitation agreements.

FORCED MARRIAGE
As the population in England and Wales becomes increasingly diverse there are historical practices from other parts of the world which are still observed within communities in England and Wales. One of these foreign cultural traditions is arranged marriage. With the Forced Marriage Act 2007 becoming law on the 25 November 2008 there are safeguards now in place to protect unwilling parties to a marriage resulting from force, fear or undue pressure from their families. This is an area of law that requires specialist advice and Bromleys family team can assist if this affects you, a relative or even one of your close friends.

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