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fluid thinking.
clear solutions.



Family fact sheet

Family law disputes demand specialist legal knowledge, skilful negotiation and sensitivity. At Penningtons, we have the experience to meet those demands, offering sound advice to guide you through the legal, financial and practical issues towards the right solution for your family.

‘Penningtons gives an incredibly personal service to clients – it always has your best interests at heart.’

Chambers UK - 2009 edition

Dealing with financial claims on divorce requires an understanding of the complexities of the finances, a sense of focus, attention to detail and clear communication along the way. We put these skills into our practice and bring extensive experience in all areas of family financial work to your case. We can advise you on financial claims, pre and post nuptial agreements and variations of earlier orders. We can draw on the expertise of specialists in our private client team to advise you on the tax, trusts and estate planning aspects. If you are unmarried, you need advice tailored to your particular circumstances and we also specialise in handling financial claims on behalf of children and child support.

Families moving across international borders need specialist advice to negotiate complex questions of jurisdiction and international law. If you live and work abroad, have moved to the UK to work, if you married abroad or if your partner has moved to live with you from another country, then you could benefit from expert advice about your situation. Where there is a choice of jurisdiction, we can help in obtaining comparative advice from another country.

Our wide-ranging expertise in children law, combined with an understanding of the emotional issues, means that we can guide you through some of the most challenging family law problems. We can help you with residence and contact disputes, international relocation, returning children across international borders and disputes over specific issues, such as schooling.

Our experience in civil partnership matters means that we can advise you on pre-registration agreements, registration, dissolution, financial settlements and children matters.

As members of the solicitors’ family law association Resolution, we are committed to a constructive approach to resolving family law issues.

Family services at a glance:

- collaborative family law
- divorce and civil partnership dissolution
- fertility law
- financial claims on behalf of children
- financial disputes in cohabitation
- financial settlements on divorce
- international child abduction
- international relocation of families
- pre-nuptial agreements
- residence and contact disputes



Our clients

We act for a broad range of individuals and families, based in the UK and abroad, in relation to complex financial or child-related family law problems. We represent clients in contested proceedings, we advise individuals on how to negotiate their own settlements and we provide planning advice for those wishing to avoid potential conflicts.

Our clients appreciate our constructive approach and high quality service. Whatever the task, we treat your case with dedication, commitment and discretion.

For those seeking an alternative to a court-based resolution of family disputes, we practise collaborative law. This approach aims to put the whole family's needs at the centre of the negotiation process and moves away from traditional 'positional' negotiations towards open discussions in a series of 'four way' meetings between the couple and their collaboratively trained lawyers.

Recent experience

- acting for a husband in ancillary relief proceedings with contested inheritance issues
- representing the petitioner on dissolution of civil partnership and concluding the financial settlement
- representing a father on the mother's claim for financial provision for children
- advising a mother on appealing against an order which barred her for a year from applying to court to see her children
- advising a wife on the implications of her husband's possible insolvency on divorce
- providing urgent advice to an Italian father whose children had been retained in England following a holiday contact visit
- representing a mother on a European cross-border children case with proceedings in both countries; working with lawyers abroad to provide a seamless service to the client across jurisdictions

What people say about us

Julia Thackray, who heads our family law team, is described as 'highly recommended' in the 2009 edition of *The Legal 500* directory.

'Julia Thackray's legal advice, support and diligence were outstanding. It is in great part thanks to her excellent work, in which she gave so much personal commitment, that we succeeded in what was a very difficult case.'

Family client, London

'I can't thank you enough for all of the help, advice and support you gave me over the last year and a half during an unsettled time for both me and my child. I don't think I would have got through it as well had it not been for your calm and expert approach to it all.'

Family client, South of England

Key contact



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