

Alison Fielden & Co.

Solicitors & Notary Public

FACTSHEET

Collaborative Family Law

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that the divorce rate in England and Wales in 2006 was 12.2 people per 1,000. This therefore means that the number of divorces in 2006 amounted to over 132,000.

The divorce rate for those couples who have been married before is higher; last year, 1 in 5 marriages ending in divorce involved at least one of the parties having been married before.

Many of those marriages will involve children, either from that relationship, or from earlier relationships, and will involve a number of financial issues, for example property, maintenance, and pensions, to be resolved.

Newspaper headlines in recent months have revolved around the divorce between Heather Mills and Paul McCartney. The headlines have referred to a "divorce fight" or a "divorce battle".

Collaborative Family Law is a relatively new approach, begun by family lawyers, to manage the divorce process in a constructive and dignified way.

The Family Lawyers and their clients agree in writing to reach a settlement without Court involvement. They agree to work together to resolve children and financial matters arising out of their separation.

What are the Key Features of Collaborative Law?

- The parties are in charge of the process – it is their settlement
- All discussions take place in face-to-face meetings
- Discussions focus on both parties concerns and the interests of each of them and any children
- The parties and their lawyers commit to resolve issues without going to Court

For further information about the Collaborative Process please contact our Family Lawyer, Heather Weavill, an Accredited Member of Resolution and a Collaborative Family lawyer, at the address below or by e-mail: hweavill@alisonfielden.co.uk

Please refer to this article for an initial free half hour appointment.

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