

INFORMATION SHEET

Family Breakdown &
Surviving the Short-term

Coming to terms with the end of a relationship is a stressful and emotional experience.

For many it can be devastating.

Whether you are the person who has decided to bring the relationship to an end, or the choice has been made for you, it is a difficult and worrying time. The impact upon the children is a major concern, as well as the effects upon relationships built up over the years with immediate family and friends. These are the important matters. Unfortunately, for the majority, the ability to cope with these issues is worsened by additionally having to worry about money.



How will I survive financially?

This is a question many ask themselves. That question may come to many prior to separation - it may be the reason that you remain in an unhappy relationship. The question may come after separation occurs - when the end of a relationship is not a choice and comes with no warning. If you have relied on the financial support of your partner or spouse throughout the relationship, then managing money will be a huge concern. Family law legislation is there to provide for people who find themselves without the financial support they have relied upon throughout a relationship.

Between spouses there is an obligation to provide continuing financial support in circumstances where one spouse needs that support, and the other can afford to provide it. This is referred to as 'Spousal Aliment'.

It can be sought through a Court order if the spouse who can afford to provide financial support refuses or delays to do so.

Additional orders can be sought through the Court to protect your financial position, for example, to ensure that one party contributes towards their share of certain financial obligations. The ability to maintain mortgage payments, or inability to pay the mortgage at all, might be a major concern. The court can make an order to ensure that the party who can afford to pay the mortgage will meet that payment, whether they are residing in the matrimonial home or not.



Every case is dependent upon its own facts and circumstances. There are many practical options to be considered when it comes to financial survival in the shorter term. Alternative housing, potential entitlement to government assistance, budgeting household outgoings. It helps to seek advice and talk to someone about the issues you are concerned about.

How we can help...

We have many years of experience in dealing with clients who have gone through the devastating effects of a relationship breakdown. We can provide necessary legal advice and reassurance, based on our knowledge and practice of family law.

Covid-19 Procedures

As a result of the Coronavirus we have had to adjust. Our preference is to meet clients face to face, unfortunately, this is currently not possible. However, we are offering telephone appointments and can additionally arrange video conferencing via Skype or Zoom if this is preferred. The world is changing, but we are still here to support you during your most difficult periods.

Please contact your nearest Family Law team at one of our offices...



Our Service, in the Words of our Clients...

"I cannot recommend W&AS Bruce highly enough. Unsure of what to expect I was greeted with friendly, welcoming and down to earth members of staff. Finding myself in the position of requiring legal advice was not pleasant but Selina and Helen made everything so much easier to understand. The team always went above and beyond in their approach and always considered me. Selina and Helen are a real asset to their organisation that clearly has a culture of putting the client first!"

Ian Harker, Dunfermline



"Now I've calmed down and over the shock, I would just like to say thank you. The work you have done for me over the years, the time and effort put into my case. I'm honestly so grateful for everything you have done for me. You believed in me and bent over backwards to make sure we got to where we are today. I know this is your job, you get paid for it, but your human and proved it is more than just a job. Words can't explain how much I appreciate this and how grateful I am for everything you and Helen have done for me.

Thank you so much. I will be eternally grateful."

Anonymous, Dunfermline

"I have been a client of W&AS Bruce, Dunfermline, since 1999 and have availed myself of their services on four occasions in that time. Sadly, the last time was during the emotional minefield of a divorce. My Solicitor was Selina Mackay, ably assisted by Paralegal Helen Gibb. They were exceptional. Yes, they put their talents and experience at my disposal but, more than that, they went the extra mile. Selina cut through the Legal jargon and dealt with me with great patience and sensitivity. Helen was very kind and sympathetic too.

I have no hesitation in recommending this Law Firm. The Legal fees are reasonable and fully explained and you are in good hands at a difficult time."

John V Lloyd, Dunfermline