

INFORMATION GUIDE FOR CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Q: When can I get dissolution?

You cannot start a petition for dissolution until such time as you have been in a civil partnership for more than one year.

Q: How do I get a dissolution?

There is only one ground for dissolution and that is that the civil partnership has irretrievably broken down and there is no chance of reconciliation. To show the Court that the partnership has broken down. You must prove one or more of the following grounds:-

- a) That your civil partner's behaviour has been so bad that you can no longer bear to live with them.
- b) That you and your civil partner have lived apart for at least two years and he/she agrees to a dissolution.
- c) That you and your civil partner have lived apart for at least five years.
- d) That your civil partner deserted you at least two years ago.

Q: How long will the Court proceedings last?

The proceedings take around six months from presenting the petition at Court to receiving the final dissolution order.

Q: Will I need to attend Court?

There is usually no need to attend Court unless there are any disagreements about the Court costs, the property and financial arrangements, or arrangements for any children.

Q: Will the Court be concerned with all the children of the civil partnership?

No, the Court will only consider the children who still need your care and financial support. The Court will look at any child who was born to you and your civil partner, or who has been treated by you as though they had been born to you, and who is either under the age of 16 or between the ages of 16 and 18 and still at college or full time school. These are known as "children of the family". This will also include children that either or both of you have adopted, but not foster children.

Q: Which areas of our property and finances can the Court deal with?

The Court has the same range of powers as in relation to married couples. Please refer to the separate Financial Information Sheet.

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