

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Legal Aid Board

St Stephen's Green House
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 661 5811

(A list of the law centres nationwide are available from the Board)

Family Mediation Service

Block 1
Floor 5
Irish Life Centre
Lower Abbey Street
Dublin 1
Tel: 01 872 8277

Mediators Institute Ireland (MII)

79 Merrion Square
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 661 8488
(A list of all accredited Mediators is available from MII)

Clanwilliam Institute

Clanwilliam Court
Dublin 6
Tel: 01 676 1363

Marriage & Relationship Counselling Services (MRCS)

24 Grafton Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 01872 0341

ACCORD

(Formerly CMAC)
39 Harcourt Street
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 478 0866

Irish Association of Counselling & Therapy

8 Cumberland Street
Dun Laoghaire
Co Dublin
Tel: 01 230 0061



BASIC INFORMATION USEFUL AT FIRST CONSULTATION

- 1 Marriage certificate
- 2 Any previous court orders
- 3 Any deed of separation or earlier agreement
- 4 Special needs of any children
- 5 Financial profile of husband and wife, including:
 - i. employment status and income
 - ii. mortgages and debts
 - iii. properties
 - iv. current maintenance arrangements
 - v. other assets
 - vi. pensions/life policies

DIVORCE IN IRELAND

FAMILY LAW (DIVORCE) ACT 1996

BE WISE SEEK ADVICE –
CONSULT YOUR SOLICITOR

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TELEPHONE: 01-671 0711



Law Society of Ireland

Divorce - the steps

THE GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

The court may grant a decree of divorce if it is satisfied that:

- 1 the husband and wife have lived apart for four of the previous five years
- 2 there is no reasonable prospect of reconciliation
- 3 proper provision has or will be made for the spouse and dependent children.

And then, if you have a solicitor he/she must consider the alternatives with you:

- 1 the possibility of resolving the difficulties in your marriage
- 2 making your own agreement with the help of a mediator
- 3 separation by way of agreement in writing
- 4 separation by way of a court order

WHAT IS 'PROPER PROVISION'?

The Act sets out all the factors to be taken into account by the court to ensure that the spouse and dependant children are adequately provided for following the divorce.

- The court can make orders relating to
- 1 the children
 - 2 the family home
 - 3 any other property owned by the couple
 - 4 pension rights
 - 5 maintenance
 - 6 succession rights.

HOW DO I START?

Bring to your solicitor the information set out on the back page and your solicitor will then take full instructions from you and start the proceedings.

COSTS

These should be discussed at the first meeting with your solicitor. Due to the necessity to make proper provision for the children, and the spouse, it may be necessary to split up the assets, and this may entail further legal work, i.e. the transfer of the property to one spouse, general taxation advice, and advice from a pensions expert, and these fees will be in addition. If you are unable to pay your own solicitor, you may qualify for Legal Aid provided by the state.

TIMESCALE

If your spouse does not contest the case, it may take six months or upwards depending on the court lists and the place where the proceedings are issued. If your spouse does contest the case, it could take substantially longer. Where contested, negotiation may still resolve some or most of the issues. If agreement cannot be reached in relation to the children and the property and financial matters, not alone will the case take longer, but the legal and other professional costs will increase.

DIVORCE DECREE

If the court is satisfied with the application it declares legally that your marriage is dissolved. On receiving your divorce, you automatically have the right to remarry.