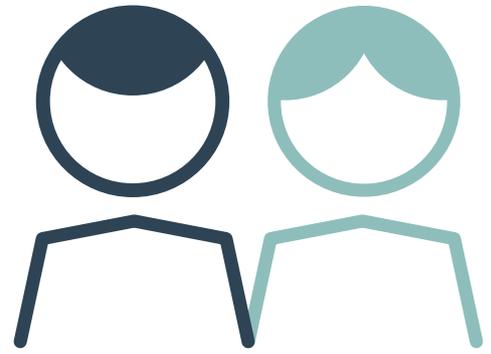


The Resolve guide to dealing with children issues around divorce

Resolve Children Support Services



A Start by resolving the common issues

The impact of divorce on those children affected is not to be underestimated and needs to be managed as carefully as possible. Hopefully, despite the end of your marital relationship, you and your spouse can still work together in respect of your children's care and needs.

To begin, discussions must be held between you and your spouse regarding the practicalities of separation and the effect on the children. For example, you need to consider where the children are to sleep and stay, childcare arrangements and the numerous daily tasks and responsibilities that may have previously been taken for granted.

These are always difficult conversations to have. Ongoing conflict can be harmful, so cooperation and agreement by you, as parents, offers children the greatest chance of emerging from the divorce in a better position. It supports children to continue normal relationships with both parents and to do better in life.

How Resolve can help

Focustep and Voices in the Middle can be accessed for guidance, support and practical help with the multitude of problems and issues that arise at this time. The trained life coaches and child counsellors will try and help you and your children find a way through any difficult patches. Guidance and support is available throughout the journey and the cost is included in the fixed price you have already paid.

It is often helpful for any agreements on childcare to be put in writing and shared between you and your spouse. Depending on the children, make sure it is clear to them what the arrangements are and that this is a guideline going forward.

B Get others involved to help

Sometimes, despite the mediatory nature of the Resolve process, you may not be able to reach agreement with your spouse about some issues concerning the children. It could be about their primary residence, the frequency of contact, schooling, medical treatment, holidays and anything of importance.

If, even after individual support, you are unable to reach agreement through mediation, then it will be necessary to get third parties involved. In the first instance, we would suggest that you and your spouse consider getting help from an expert family law mediator to assist you through your issues. The mediator is there to facilitate that discussion and assist you in both reaching a common ground or compromise, if at all possible. That meeting is likely to be at a local venue and for a set agreed fee that is shared between you and your partner.

How Resolve can help

Resolve guarantees the resolution of your financial dispute on divorce. The Resolve process provides for a settlement meeting to take place at a venue near you to try and resolve the financial issues you have with your spouse. A second mediation is optional at £600 per party. This second mediation can be used to deal with unresolved issues concerning the children. Resolve will provide the venue and the mediator for this meeting.

If you have already used the second mediation option provided by Resolve, then it is still possible for you to explore settlement over remaining children issues through a further mediation. This would take place outside of the Resolve service. A separate fee of £600 per party will cover the cost of the meeting room near you and the expert mediator. Please contact the Resolve centre on 0333 323 9663 to find out more and to discuss the arrangements.

C Where agreement cannot be reached

In the disappointing position where you and your spouse are unable to reach agreement over arrangements for the children after divorce, either by way of direct discussion and/or mediation, then you will require a judicial award to decide the matter. This does involve an application to the Family Court and both parties will need to take legal advice and secure legal representation at the court hearing. Ultimately, a judge will decide what arrangements should be put in place for the children.

How Resolve can help

Resolve continues to provide support to the family through the Focustep and Voices in the Middle services included in the Resolve fee. Whilst this does not extend to legal advice it will cover help and support on dealing with the actual events that are happening to you and the children. Your spouse will have similar access. It is hoped that in some way, this support will assist the family in avoiding the need to proceed to court over arrangements for the children.

If agreement has not been reached about the children's arrangements and an application to court is required for a court judgment on the matter then you, your spouse and possibly your children will need legal representation. Whilst Resolve does not provide legal advice and assistance to any party we maintain a panel of expert family law solicitors across the UK that specialise in dealing with such children matters. Please contact the Resolve centre on 0333 323 9663 for further information.

D Summary

Divorce always affects the children. As Relate put it, "couples staying together, because they have no financial option, can create a toxic environment for children." Where divorce is the right choice, it is possible to go through that journey with the children in a good, positive mental and physical state.

Resolve will guide you through the system, but will also ensure that when you leave the Resolve process you are looked after and supported by the most appropriate law firm.

Resolve Divorce Line

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