

Gardner Leader set to speed up divorce process

By **Stephanie Buckeridge**

Stephanie Buckeridge is a Family Law Expert who works in our Maidenhead office. She has a wealth of family law experience dealing with both the married and unmarried family.

Divorce and Financial Pilot Schemes

Gardner Leader LLP have been fortunate to be part of a handful of Solicitors taking part in the current government pilot scheme digitalizing the way in which divorce and the linked financial proceedings take place.

What is the Divorce Pilot Scheme?

The Divorce Pilot Scheme now allows us to issue divorce proceedings directly online for

clients. Since the Court service moved to Regional Central Divorce Courts there have been significant delays in postal proceedings being issued resulting in the proceedings taking many months to conclude. The new Pilot Scheme provides a quick and seamless procedure to allow the Petition to be issued quickly resulting in a straightforward undefended divorce concluding in 12-16 weeks rather than 24 weeks or more.

How will the Financial Order Pilot Scheme help me?

It is very important when divorcing to ensure a final Financial Order is made either recording

a financial agreement that has already been actioned by a divorcing couple or to record the agreement parting spouses have reached which is still to be implemented and may include ongoing financial commitments. If you do not have a final Financial Order your own and your spouse's financial claims remain alive even after the Decree Absolute has been made ending the marriage until death or remarriage.

The Pilot Scheme for Financial Orders enables us to upload directly on to the Court's system for applications for agreed Financial Orders. The applications will then be considered by a

Judge before being approved and issued by the Court. Typically we are receiving approval and the sealed Order from the Court within 7 days or less. Prior to being part of the Pilot Scheme it was taking many weeks, and in some cases as long as 4-5 months, for the Court to consider applications for agreed Financial Orders submitted.

The Pilot Scheme has significantly reduced the time it takes to conclude divorce and obtain approval for an agreed Financial Order. This has resulted in clients suffering less stress and peace of mind as well as a saving in legal costs in many cases.



Contact Stephanie Buckeridge

Associate - Family Team

Gardner Leader – Maidenhead Office

T: 01628 502883 E: s.buckeridge@gardner-leader.co.uk



Maidenhead Office: First Floor, 7 Frascati Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 4UY

Telephone: 01628 671636 **Email:** info@gardner-leader.co.uk **www.gardner-leader.co.uk**