

A Different Kind of Resolution



Many people feel pressured into thinking that the New Year should bring with it the promise of excitement, adventure, hope and fun. At this time of year we seem

bombarded, particularly on social media, with other people's portrayals of perfection and happiness that are often not only completely unrealistic for the rest of us, but they can also be plainly wrong.

For all of those hopeful, expectant individuals, there are an equal, if not higher, number who are struggling with their circumstances; particularly those contemplating the end of their marriage or civil partnership. For them, it can be a dark, uncertain and worrying time of year. But it doesn't have to be. Help, support and guidance are available. Here, Kate Smith sets out her top three 'resolutions' if this rings true with you.

1. Get advice from a family lawyer. At K J Smith Solicitors, we offer a free, no-obligation, initial consultation during which we explore your concerns and discuss with you how best to address them to secure the right outcome for you. We will always listen to you, treat you with respect and give supportive, honest and clear advice.

2. Start to make a note of the family finances that you know of, such as who owns the family home and any other property; the identity of your mortgage lender(s); which bank(s) or institution(s) holds the family funds; are the assets held in England and Wales or in another country; are they on-shore or off-shore; is there a family trust or company or any debt, the identity of your employers and pension providers.

Having this information will not only provide you with confidence, but it will allow us to better understand your circumstances and assess what other advice or support you may need. Be careful, however not to take confidential information belonging to your spouse or civil partner. There are very specific rules that prevent you from doing this in the context of separation.

3. If there are children involved, it is always advisable to put their welfare at the forefront of your discussions, but don't make them a party to your discussions. Consider carefully how their lives can be disrupted as little as possible and whether they may require any additional support such as counselling. At K J Smith Solicitors, we regularly run free workshops for children, in conjunction with Bright Minds Kids Life Coaching. Please visit www.kjsmith.co.uk/free-workshops for more information.

Kate Smith is a Senior Solicitor in our Guildford office. She is an Accredited Specialist in children matters and complex financial cases where income and assets are substantial, both in the UK and internationally. Clients like Kate's friendly, professional and dedicated approach to their cases and her supportive and sympathetic manner.

If you are looking for legal advice and assistance, you may benefit from one of our free 45-minute family law consultations.

To arrange an appointment, please call 01483 370100 or email guildford@kjsmith.co.uk.

www.kjsmith.co.uk

 **KJSmith Solicitors**