

CHERYL TO DIVORCE?

We have been reading in the press that 26 year old Cheryl Cole the X-factor Judge and Girls Aloud singer has separated and is set to divorce her 29 year old footballer husband, Ashley, after 3 1/2 years of marriage. If we believe what we read in the tabloids she has been unable to forgive him following revelations of a string of alleged affairs.

By comparison, we read that John Terry's wife, Toni, the mother of twins, faced with a similar situation has reconciled. Presumably this demonstrates a willingness to excuse her husband's alleged indiscretions and to move forward with their relationship.

Whilst the majority of our clients are not famous pop stars or WAGS, it is the case that whether or not to end a marriage or longstanding relationship is an extremely difficult decision which faces many individuals, men and women alike. It is an emotionally stressful time. Often a party is in turmoil wondering what decision to make and, more importantly, whether or not they have made the right one. It is usually coupled with uncertainty as to the future. The impact that a separation will have upon any children is often paramount in a client's mind as well as the financial implications arising from the break of the relationship.

What is clear is that whoever you might be, it is vital to have sympathetic and yet straightforward advice from a solicitor who has expertise in this particular area. "We often see clients at a first interview who are extremely distressed, tearful and uncertain as to what the future holds and how best to approach the breakdown of their marriage or relationship. We find that with expert advice at an early stage and with a constructive and sympathetic approach, we can support clients in reaching major decisions. When all is said and done what they determine they want to do now can be completely life changing", Judith Fitzpatrick Head of the Family Law Team.

Our aim is to set out the client's options so that they have as much information as possible to assist them in reaching the decisions which are right for them. We provide reassurance when it is necessary. We can outline the different approaches that are available be it by suggesting a referral to mediation or may be through the collaborative process. We aim to put our clients at ease. Most people have never seen a solicitor before with a view to discussing matters which are very personal to them. May be in the past they have had legal advice over matters such as buying and selling properties but that is a completely different process to the one in which a client may now find himself or herself involved, when a marriage or relationship comes to an end.

Whilst divorce and separation are never easy, the right legal advice can make what would otherwise be a stressful situation, more bearable.

Read Dunn Connell offers an initial consultation at no cost. Members of the team have been accredited by Resolution (formerly The Solicitors' Family Law Association), are members of the Law Society's Family Law Panel and have trained as Collaborative Lawyers.

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