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Early decisions vital with the legal aspects of relationships

VICKY GALLIER, head of family law at Knights Solicitors in Tunbridge Wells, offers advice for anyone suffering relationship problems.

It can be a dilemma to know when to take legal advice when difficulties arise in a relationship. Taking that first step can seem very daunting, but seeing a solicitor early on can be helpful and does not mean that you are committed to taking things further.



A solicitor can discuss with you the immediate practical steps you might wish to take in relation to the household finances.

It is very likely that you will have lots of questions. You have probably never been in this position before or wanted to be. Don't be afraid to ask.

You might be uncertain as to whether or not you wish to divorce or end your civil partnership, or if you would prefer a Separation Agreement. Finding out the procedures involved might help you to decide what to do at this stage. A solicitor can also discuss with you your options for resolving any disagreements you might have with your partner about the division of finances.

Early legal advice can help you start to plan your future. Taking advice could also aid discussions at home, allowing you to feel more in control.

The welfare of any children involved should be the first consideration with any decision making. Taking early legal advice can address fears and help with the planning of important future arrangements.

A solicitor can help identify where you may need to take the advice of other qualified persons, for example in relation to financial matters, such as pensions, investments, tax or mortgages.

Speaking with a solicitor does not mean that a partner, or indeed any other person, will know. Solicitors have a duty of confidentiality towards their clients. Taking early, confidential advice could help to eliminate uncertainties or worries, and help you to focus on your priorities and what you want to achieve for you and your family.

■ If you need advice or help with any family law matter, contact Vicky via vicky.gallier@knights-solicitors.co.uk, call 01892 537311 or visit www.knights-solicitors.co.uk