

## The Dos and Don'ts of Matrimonial Litigation

You have instructed this firm to act for you in connection with Matrimonial Proceedings. This is a very difficult time for both you and your estranged partner and it is likely to be many months before these Proceedings are concluded. That, being the case, we have set out below some do's and don'ts which you may find helpful in dealing with this matter: -

### Do's

1. Do remember that although you may no longer be together, you will always both be the children's parents. Put the children first!
2. Do keep the door opened to dialogue.
3. Do substitute politeness, if love is gone.
4. Do be aware of the positive benefits of counselling and/or mediation in helping you cope with your changing relationship with your partner.
5. Do be ready to compromise - an agreement between you is more likely to work than an Order imposed by the Court.
6. Do be patient - Matrimonial Proceedings can take many months to be concluded and we shall not compromise your interest for the sake of speed.

### Don'ts

7. Do not tolerate threats or violence - ask us how the law can help to protect you.
8. Do not sign or agree to anything without speaking to us first.
9. Do not let your partner undermine your confidence in us.
10. Do not expect the best of your partner, or of yourself - aspire to reasonableness
11. Do not leave your confidential documents where they can be found by your partner
12. Do not panic!

Divorce and separation can be difficult. It helps to be prepared so please bear these points in mind.