

CLIENT PREPARATION WORKBOOK / FAMILY & DIVORCE

Complex divorce: businesses, trusts and property

A practical guide to organising the questions and records for an initial discussion. This is a preparation tool, not a financial disclosure form, legal determination or valuation. You can contact the firm before completing it.

1 Identify the issues before gathering everything

- What is your current situation: considering divorce, papers received, negotiating terms, or proceedings underway?
- Are there any court dates, signed agreements, orders or urgent concerns? Note the exact date and source.
- Which marital property regime may apply? Locate the marriage certificate and antenuptial contract, if any.
- List relevant business, property or trust interests without assuming that everything an entity owns is personally owned.

2 Keep different interests separate

Item or interest	What you know / records available	Questions or gaps
Shares or membership interests		
Directorship / management role		
Shareholder / member loan account		
Trust deed / role / distributions		
Residential or commercial property		
Personal debts / guarantees		
Retirement interests		

Only use information and documents you lawfully hold. Do not collect or transmit confidential third-party records through a general website enquiry.

COMPLEX DIVORCE / PRACTICAL RECORDS

Questions to take into your legal consultation

3 Evidence and practical considerations

- Entity documents: ownership records, constitutional documents, shareholder agreements and relevant financial statements.
- Property: identify registered owners, outstanding finance, relevant agreements and any proposed transfer.
- Trust arrangements: identify trustee/beneficiary roles and access to deeds, records or distributions.
- Income and debt: distinguish salary, drawings, dividends, loans, guarantees and entity liabilities.
- Value and timing: note what has been valued, on what date, by whom and for what purpose. Do not equate turnover with value.
- Settlement implementation: list proposed payments, transfer requirements, approvals and unresolved tax or lender questions.

4 Consultation question planner

Question I need answered	Supporting record / date	Next step agreed with lawyer
Which legal right is relevant?		
What information is missing or disputed?		
Is an independent expert appropriate?		
Does any deadline require urgent action?		
Could mediation be appropriate?		
How might proposed terms be implemented?		

Helpful HRA pages

[Divorce & Business Interests](#) | [Financial Disclosure](#) | [Existing financial worksheet](#)

Keep completed pages privately. This downloadable guide is not a secure upload service or legal advice. If you have received legal papers, seek timely advice; completing this worksheet does not extend any deadline.