



Breaking Up

...need not be so hard to do



anthony gold

S O L I C I T O R S

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## Introduction

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The breakdown of a relationship can often be very traumatic. However lawyers should not make a bad situation worse. Anthony Gold has a very experienced family team who can guide you through this difficult process. Two of the partners in the family team Ellie Chapman and Kim Beatson were at the forefront of founding Resolution an organisation of family lawyers which promotes dealing with family matters in a non-confrontational way. Over 90% of our cases settle by agreement. We aim therefore to adopt a constructive and a conciliatory, rather than aggressive approach, to resolving family problems arising from relationship breakdown. This is, however, balanced with the belief that in appropriate cases we may have to be tough. Our family team are listed as leaders in their field in the independent guides, Chambers and the Legal 500.



## How we can help

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Our Lawyers offer expertise in all areas of family law and issues arising from relationship breakdown, including:-

- Financial arrangements and separation and divorce;
- Arrangements for contact for children including residence and contact;
- Civil partnership advice;
- Mediation;
- Child abduction;
- Collaborative law.

## Putting Children First

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We have considerable experience in dealing with the many issues relating to children. We have experience in contact and residence disputes. We also act in many cases with an international flavour where inevitably the circumstances are potentially even more difficult.

## Mediation

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Mediation is a process in which couples meet a impartial family mediator to consider ways of resolving disputes. Mediation can be used to help resolve financial and property arrangements, financial support and arrangements for the care of children and contact arrangements.

Mediation is an integral part of family law at Anthony Gold as we aim to adopt a constructive approach to resolving family problems arising from relationship breakdown. Our mediation department is headed by Kim Beatson who was one of the first solicitors in this country to qualify as a mediator. Kim is a member of the Law Society's advanced mediation panel and the Court of Appeal mediation panel.

Caroline Bowden undertakes private and publicly funded mediation and is also a member of the Law Society's advanced mediation panel and the Court of Appeal mediation panel.

We can be involved in mediations in two ways. Firstly we frequently recommend that our clients attend mediation to resolve issues. We are also very happy to act as your mediator in appropriate cases.



## Collaborative Law

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Collaborative practice is a fairly new approach to the resolution of family issues.

In a collaborative case an agreement is drawn up and signed by both clients and their lawyers. The couple commit not to go to court until matters are resolved. The couple dictate the timetable and agenda and the cases are normally dealt with by way of negotiations taking place in round table meetings. The clients' needs, concerns and the best outcome for the family as a whole becomes the priority.

Couples may benefit from the participation of other professionals such as family consultants, accountants, IFAs and actuaries. Kim Beatson, Camilla Fusco, Margaret Hatwood and Nicola Gunn are collaborative lawyers at the firm.



## International disputes

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International family law is complex in particular because it is not consistent throughout the world. Depending on your personal circumstances you may be able to litigate in a number of different jurisdictions. This is known as "forum shopping". We can advise you on the feasibility and probability of the results of taking action in different countries. We frequently advise in international cases and have built relationships with key foreign lawyers whose expertise we can call upon. Camilla Fusco is dual qualified in Hong Kong and speaks fluent Italian.

## Civil Partnerships

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In December 2005 the UK gave same sex couples the right to enter in to a form of registered partnership known as “civil partnership”. Civil partners have similar rights to married couples in relation to tax, wills and inheritance, pensions, insurance, housing and immigration. A civil partnership can only be brought to an end by dissolution, by court order. The courts have the same powers as in the case of divorce to make orders in relation to financial issues and children. Like divorce no application for dissolution can be made within the first year after registration. The team has experience in dealing with this emerging area of law.

## Cohabitation Disputes

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There is no such thing as a “common law” spouse in England and Wales. This means that you have no automatic rights to assets owned by your partner, your rights will depend on a number of factors. This is a complex area of law and may involve more than one set of legal proceedings.

Margaret Hatwood is a Resolution accredited specialist in cohabitation disputes.

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Or visit our website at [www.anthonygold.co.uk](http://www.anthonygold.co.uk)



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