

Steps for the new divorce process from April 6th 2022.

The below is a brief flow chart of the key steps involved in the new Divorce, Dissolution, and Separation Act of 2020 which comes into effect from 6th April 2022 that we have put together to try to help clients. Proceedings issued by the court on or before 5th April will continue using the previous divorce process. Whilst there are many new elements to understand, below are the key elements of the new process. It is hoped this will be a simpler process.

Applicant or Applicants make an application – for the first time applications can be made jointly.

Minimum time period of **20 weeks** from the start of proceedings (when the court issues the application) until the Applicant or Applicants may apply for a **Conditional Order**. This is to allow for a longer period of reflection and if divorce is inevitable, allows more time to agree the practical arrangements for the future. Ideally these arrangements would be made through mediation and avoid the stress and cost of the court process. If you are in receipt of benefits, or on a low income and have little or no savings you may be able to receive help with court fees <https://www.gov.uk/get-help-with-court-fees>

6 weeks after the conditional order the **Final Order** can be applied for.