



BOOKERS & BOLTON
SOLICITORS

Divorce Client Guide

February 2023



WHO CAN APPLY?

To apply for a divorce, you must be legally married and have been married for [at least a year](#).

WHAT REASON CAN THEY GIVE?

From 6 April 2022, instead of relying on fault or separation, an application for divorce issued on or after that date will simply state that the marriage has broken down irretrievably and this does not have to be proved. It is not necessary to rely on fault or separation and the court does not require evidence of the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage. Your family lawyer will be able to provide specific advice based on your circumstances.

Another change brought about by DDSA 2020 is that an applicant in divorce proceedings cannot apply for the first stage in the process, the conditional order, until a minimum of 20 weeks have passed since the application for divorce was issued.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

THE DIVORCE APPLICATION

We will complete the divorce application online and when approved by you, we will send this to the Court electronically with a fee of £553.00 and sending a scanned copy of your original marriage certificate.

If you agree, both you and your spouse can apply for the divorce jointly.

The Court will then issue the application and send this to your spouse. In usual proceedings the spouse will acknowledge the application and send this back to the Court.

CONDITIONAL ORDER

Once we receive the acknowledgement from the Court and the 20 weeks have past, we can apply for the first stage of divorce, which is the conditional order. The Court will review this application and then provide a certificate of entitlement to a conditional order. This will give a date for when the Conditional Order will be pronounced. When the Conditional Order is pronounced, we must wait 6 weeks and a day before we can apply for the next stage of divorce on your behalf, which is the Final Order.

FINAL ORDER

When you are ready to apply for the final stage of your divorce we will apply to the Court for your Final Order. When we receive the Final Order from the Court, it means that you are divorced.

COURT FEES

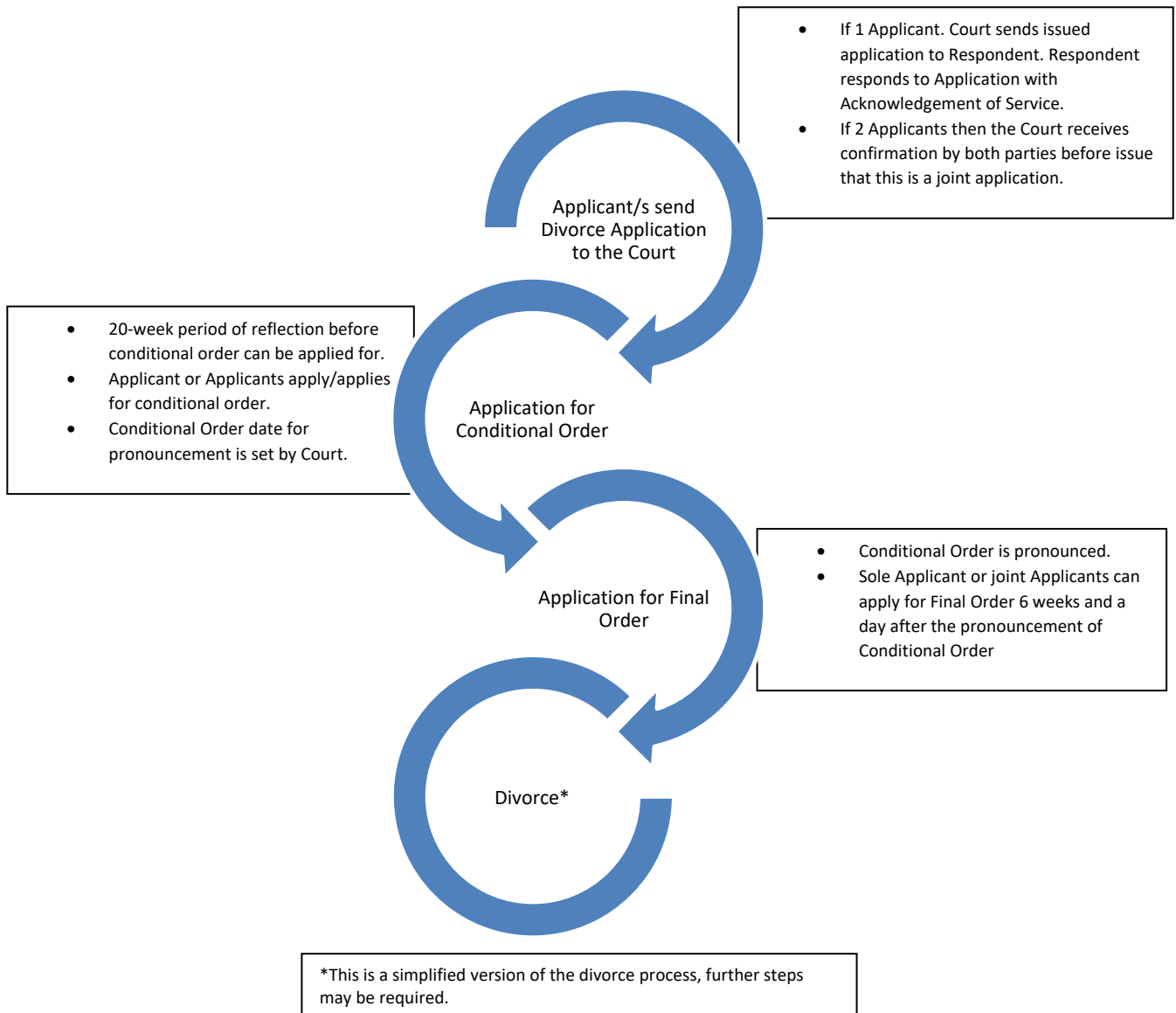
In respect of court fees, it may be that you qualify for a court fee remission. You will qualify for this if your financial circumstances meet the threshold. We can help you apply.

MATRIMONIAL FINANCES

Divorcing does not resolve the outstanding issues of matrimonial finances. If you and your spouse can agree a settlement, then this can be incorporated into a Consent Order which we can assist you with. The Court can approve a Consent Order if you are at the Conditional Order stage.

If matrimonial finances cannot be agreed, we will need to apply to the Court for a financial order. The court fee for this is £275.00. This will commence financial proceedings and we will assist you with this process as well as negotiate on your behalf and advise you as to what you should fairly receive.

In summary the process of the divorce is:



This guide to divorce does not constitute appropriate legal advice and is for general advice only. Further steps may be required in the divorce/financial process. Bookers & Bolton cannot accept responsibility for any reliance placed on the legal information provided in this guide.



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WHO ARE WE?

We have been in our current offices at **6 High Street** in Alton since 1956 and the history of Bookers & Bolton dates to 1893 so you can rely on us to be there for you and your family in the future. There is a security in our history, and we act for many clients whose grandparents were advised by us. We have built a reputation for quality and reliability in Hampshire and the South, and we are committed to maintaining and building on that reputation. Whilst other firms come and go and may offer the promise of low-cost legal services, we remain committed to providing you with the best. We recognise that you only come to us when faced with the most important decisions in life and we treat you, and those issues, with the respect and legal diligence that they call for.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Our qualified family team are here to help you with all your matrimonial matters. They can offer advice; help you complete the sometimes-lengthy forms and ensure you get the fairest deal when it comes to finances.

CONTACT US

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Online: www.bookersandbolton.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BookersBoltonSolicitors

Twitter: @BookersBolton

Linked In:

www.linkedin.com/company/bookers-&-bolton-solicitors/

OUR OTHER SERVICES

Please ask about our other services. If you are selling your family home or haven't yet made a will, we are here to help.

PROPERTY **PRIVATE CLIENT** **FAMILY & YOU** **BUSINESS**