

Matrimonial Services

Financial advice in matrimonial cases must negotiate numerous and complex legislative issues which highly specialist skills in order to add value to the work being done by a matrimonial lawyer.

At AV Trinity we have been working with matrimonial lawyers, mediators, arbitrators and barristers for many years and have an experienced team led by Julie Lavers who is a Chartered Financial Planner and **Resolution Accredited Specialist** with over 30yrs experience in financial services.

Many IFAs aspire to work and create relationships with family lawyers, but often the extent of their involvement is to hope to get the call to help with the investment of a cash lump sum post-settlement, and in all honesty there are many IFAs who can do this part of the job perfectly adequately. However at AV Trinity we specialise in working with the lawyer and client from the very beginning of the process.

There is a vast difference between pre & post-settlement advice and we are experienced in the taxation and legal implications of financial matters within a divorce. We provide a comprehensive and “joined-up” service under the banner of “Settlement Engineering” and it is our aim to create a palatable and workable result which will enable the parties to move on to the next phase of their lives.

Pre-settlement services

- **Initial case review** – We are happy to have an initial discussion to understand the situation and to give a true assessment of what value we can bring to the case. This can be done by email, telephone or face to face with the lawyer.
- **Forensic reviews** – If it is decided that we should be involved in the case, the first stage will often be to conduct a forensic review of pensions and other financial assets within a marriage. Pensions are very complex and Julie has many years of experience in cutting through the technicalities and presenting solutions and recommendations in a clear and concise report.

With other financial assets such as bonds and ISAs it is often a case of helping to decide which asset is better placed within your client’s settlement.

- **PPF Investigations** – We are all aware of the BHS company pension scheme problems and the prospect of the scheme entering into the Pension Protection Fund. There are many big names that have either entered or are being assessed for acceptance into the PPF with members often being penalised in the amount of benefits that can be taken. If one party has a company scheme that is teetering on the brink, decisions need to be made and options explored for a solution that will not disadvantage your client.
- **Analysis of post-divorce income needs** – We can work with the lawyer and accountant to provide detailed cash flow forecasts to help give an accurate view of income requirements after the settlement has been made.
- **Collaborative & Meditative involvement** – Julie has experience of working with collaborative lawyers and Mediators and has worked on many reports that have been instructed on both a single and jointly instructed basis. Julie has been involved in a number of meditative sessions to help engineer a palatable financial settlement where cases have stalled.
- **Technical training** – Julie is available to run sessions for matrimonial teams in order to bring the “Tips & Traps” of pensions legislation within divorce to life. She has also presented, by request, to a large family chambers in the City of London.

We are great believers in helping to find pre-settlement solutions rather than fuelling any acrimony and always attempt to find the most efficient and palatable solution for both parties

Cont

Matrimonial Services

Post-settlement services

- **Investment Portfolio Construction** – As a Chartered Financial Planning firm we have had to demonstrate that we have the expertise to advise clients in all financial planning matters and we look after some £400m of investments for our 1000+ clients.
- **Re-establishment of pension benefits** – If pension benefits have been given up as part of the divorce settlement we are well placed to advise on the most tax efficient way to rebuild those benefits.
- **Management of maintenance awards** – We work with clients in this situation to help them to budget and to understand the realities of how their income should be managed as things move forward. We always take an honest and realistic view of what can be achieved. We also advise on how best to insure the person responsible for paying the maintenance.
- **Benefit replacement** – Very often jointly held life assurance and income protection policies will need to be restructured to reflect the new marital status of the person represented by our matrimonial contacts.
- **Estate Planning reviews** – We will work with the matrimonial lawyer to ensure that wills are reviewed or written as well as looking at existing trust arrangements.
- **Mortgage Capacity Reports** – We work closely with an expert in this area and can either arrange on the lawyers behalf or make an appropriate introduction.
- **Cash flow & Budgeting advice** – It can be a daunting prospect coming out of a divorce especially if the client has had little or no involvement in the day to day family finances. We will guide the person, without patronising them, to achieve clarity in their aspirations and future financial decisions.

In conclusion

Like legal advisers we are comfortable with a fee based structure and are very happy to present our current thinking on topical issues such as pensions at the offices of our Professional Partners. We are also prepared to hold discussions and negotiate our invoicing terms to suit particular circumstances.



Please contact us

01892 612500 or 0800 668 1898

info@avtrinity.com www.avtrinity.com



“Intelligent, independent financial advice”

All information has been prepared with care to ensure accuracy and is based upon our understanding of legislation and HMRC practice, which can be subject to change. This is intended to provide information only and should not be considered as advice.