

Welcome to the Family Department



KNIGHT
POLSON

SOLICITORS

Our Family Team includes members of Resolution and the Law Society Family Law Accreditation Scheme. We understand that there is nothing more important than family and are therefore able to offer practical and sensitive support on a wide range of issues. We are committed to helping clients resolve matters following the breakdown of their relationship and other family problems as amicably and effectively as possible.

Our Team have the necessary experience, skills and sensitivity to guide you through some difficult choices and to see you safely through to the other side.

In all cases we look to achieve the best possible outcome for you by ensuring that:

- The legal issues are clearly explained to you at the outset
- You are made aware of the prospects of success of your matter and the likely outcome
- The matter remains cost effective and you receive regular cost updates.

We can offer advice on:

- **Divorce and Financial issues**
- **Collaborative Law**
- **Mediation**
- **Child Law**
- **Childcare**
- **Protecting rights of parties in an unmarried family**
- **Orders relating to domestic violence**
- **Dissolution of Civil Partnerships**
- **Change of Name for Children**

We have a Legal Services Commission franchise for dealing with family work and therefore are still able to provide an outstanding service to all of our clients irrespective of their means.

If you would like more information about the services the Team can offer, or if you need to discuss any particular problem, please contact one of the Team by email or telephone:

TEL: 023 8064 4822

Nicola Mitchell (Partner, Solicitor)

Head of Department, Family Law Accreditation Scheme Member, Resolution Member, Trained Collaborative Lawyer.

Nicola's expertise is in a wide range of areas including; Divorce, Financial Settlements, Cohabitee Disputes, Domestic Violence, Separation Agreements/Cohabitee Agreements/Pre marital Agreements. As well as representing clients in the above areas she is also a specialist in Private Children Law, Childcare and Child Abduction matters.



Nicola graduated from Leicester University in 1997 with an LL.B (Hons) in Law, qualifying as a Solicitor in 2001. In 2003 Nicola joined the Family Department of Knight & Co. and is now a Partner and Head of the Family department based at the Romsey Road Office of the merged firm Knight Polson. Nicola became a Partner in April 2010.

Nicola was brought up and educated locally and is proud to be a Partner in a Firm so close to her roots. She prides herself in providing a good service to the local community.

Nicola knows how important it is to be able to have a relaxed, sympathetic and understanding whilst professional relationship with her clients to help them through difficult times. Her clients appreciate her organised, efficient and straight talking style. Nicola promotes a constructive and practical approach in family cases, seeking if possible agreed solutions between the parties. She is not however adverse to taking a firm stance if necessary.

Outside work Nicola enjoys spending time with her own family and her Labrador Puppy. She also enjoys foreign travel.

Email: nicola.mitchell@knightpolson.co.uk

Sarah Ryan (Solicitor)

Sarah specialises in Divorce, Financial Settlements arising from matrimonial breakdown, Domestic Violence, Cohabitee Disputes, Separation Agreements and Cohabitee Agreements. Sarah also specialises in Private Children Law and Care Matters.



Sarah graduated from University in 2007 with a 2:1 LL.B (Hons) in Law and further graduated from The Guildford College of Law with a Distinction in her Legal Practice Course.

Since 2005 Sarah has worked mainly in the Family Department at Knight Polson and in March 2010 qualified as a Solicitor. Sarah specialises in Family Law and is very approachable with a very good understanding of her clients' needs. Sarah strives to deliver an effective service to her clients and takes a sympathetic approach to resolve all issues as quickly as possible, so as not to prolong matters at a sensitive time.

Recently married, Sarah who is a local girl with local ties enjoys spending time with her family and friends. As a mother herself, Sarah understands the needs and pressures of being a parent and uses this knowledge to assist her clients in every way possible.

Email: sarah.ryan@knightpolson.co.uk

Rebecca Butler (Trainee Solicitor)

Rebecca specialises in Divorce and Civil Partnership dissolution, Financial Settlements arising from matrimonial breakdowns, Domestic Violence, Cohabitee Disputes, Separation Agreements and Cohabitee Agreements. She also specialises in Private Children Law and Care Matters.



Rebecca graduated from Reading University in 2006 with an LL.B (Hons) in Law with French Law, and a diploma in French Legal Studies from the University of Nanterre, Paris X. She joined the family department of Knight Polson as a trainee in December 2009.

She enjoys the variety of work involved, and is dedicated to providing clients with clear information regarding their situation so that they can make an informed decision. Rebecca appreciates the emotional aspects involved in family law matters and provides advice to clients with sympathy and understanding of the difficult situations.

Outside of Knight Polson, Rebecca enjoys walking in the countryside, and going back to Wales to visit her friends and family. She also enjoys music attending gigs and concerts whenever possible.

Email: rebecca.butler@knightpolson.co.uk

Maggie Seacombe (Legal Secretary)

Maggie has worked for Knight Polson for 16 years, originally working for the Managing Partner, and after a small time in the Criminal Defence Department, has settled into the Family Department which she enjoys. She is secretary to Nicola Mitchell

Maggie prides herself in conveying tact and understanding when speaking with Clients, and hopes that her experience and knowledge helps to put Clients at ease when they are facing a traumatic phase in their lives.

Email: maggie.seacombe@knightpolson.co.uk

Eileen Hoad (Legal Secretary)

Eileen joined the family department at Knight Polson 11 years ago. In 2002 she moved to the residential conveyancing department where she remained for 5 years. Eileen returned to the family department at Knight Polson in October 2007.

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