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Tips from the Divorce Support Club

Using a financial adviser
as part of your support
network.

1 Pre-settlement: preparing form E

A financial adviser can assist you as early as when you are preparing your Form E documents (financial disclosure). They can help you:

Collate financial information. This includes investment, pensions and quantifying your income.

Calculate your expenditure needs through a budget analysis.

2 Pre-settlement: reviewing financial disclosure

A financial adviser can also assist you with reviewing your financial disclosure. This will enable you to:

Identify all assets and incomes. It is important to ensure that all assets and incomes are identified and valued.

Identify red flags. For example, if one party has removed access to any financial accounts, or unusual cash withdrawals.

Sense check all the figures. It is important that both parties understand their financial position.

Define and quantify the different types of pension involved. This may require a pension expert report.

3 Post-settlement: implementing pension sharing orders

Once the divorce pre-settlement has been resolved and an agreement has been reached, independent financial advice can help you to implement those orders.

A financial adviser can help with implementing shared pension orders. It will enable you to:

- Understand the options that are available to you.
- Invest in line with your risk profile.
- Draw on pension benefits.

4 Post-settlement: investing lump sum settlements

There are a range of options available to you when it comes to investing lump sum settlements. A financial adviser can go through this with you.

- They can help you establish an emergency fund.
- They can help you invest the lump sum in line with your risk profile.
- They can help you establish a regular income.



5 Post-settlement: establishing protection cover

Here are some more ways a financial adviser can assist you in the divorce process.

Life cover

A financial adviser can establish a life cover on the other party, protecting any of your maintenance payments should they pass away.

Income protection

They can review your income protection requirements, implementing cover should you become ill or injured.

Mortgage protection

If you were to die you can establish a life cover so payments could continue and not create a mortgage debt.

Critical illness cover

This ensure that in the event of death or critical illness your chosen beneficiaries are covered.

6 What to look for in a financial adviser

Here are some tips and things to look out for when choosing who to get your financial advice from.

Experience: the field of divorce finance is incredibly nuanced, so it is a good idea to find someone who specialises in this type of work.

Independence: an independent financial adviser means that there are fewer limitations for the client, especially regarding investment options.

Qualifications: within financial services, 'chartered' is the highest level of qualification. Within divorce finance, 'resolution accredited specialist' is the highest.

Rapport: it is important that you can trust and get along with your financial adviser, particularly since divorce is an emotional and trying time.