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## Tips from the Divorce Support Club

I'm getting divorced, do I  
have to go to court?

# 1 What people **actually** **mean**

Generally when people ask “do I have to go to court?” they mean the actual court room, rather than the court just being involved.



The simple answer to this question is no. Although it can be and sometimes is much more complicated than this.

Most of the time when the court does need to be involved, it can generally be done through documentation, so you still would not have to attend an actual court room.

## 2 Dealing with other matters

Divorce is just one matter to be dealt with. Often, there will be multiple matters that you will need to deal with e.g. child arrangements and finances.

- There is no obligation for the court to be involved with matters outside of the divorce itself. More often than not, they won't want to be unless they need to be.
- Matters outside of divorce, especially child arrangements, are completely separate to the divorce itself.



### 3 What if we can't agree?

People often find themselves in a situation where they have agreed certain parts of their separation e.g. arrangements for their children, but can't quite seem to reach an agreement on other aspects e.g. finances.



The first step is to sit down and try to come to an agreement between yourselves on as many aspects as possible.

Once you've agreed all that you can, or if you simply can't come to an agreement, the next step is to have your solicitors get in touch with one another and see what they can do to help.

If you've got this far and are still having issues, you can try alternatives such as mediation, or Resolution Together.

# 4 What kind of cases need to go to court?

Unfortunately it is sometimes the case that people will need to go to court to finalise their divorce.

- If you simply can't come to an agreement on certain things, you will have to ask the court to get involved.
- In situations of domestic violence, alternatives such as mediation are more often than not inappropriate, and the court will need to assist.
- Where any injunctions or emergency applications are needed, the court will need to be involved to facilitate these things.



**We hope this guide has provided you with valuable insights.**

**If you are looking for further guidance or feel that more tailored support could make a difference for you, please reach out to [Claire Macklin](#), our experienced divorce coach.**