



Family Law

We're on your side...



Petherbridge

Bassra

Your Local Solicitors



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Petherbridge Bassra is a Bradford firm helping clients with cases close to home, nationally and internationally. These pages will tell you what we do and how we do it and naturally we will highlight what we consider to be our virtues. But beyond that, the staff of Petherbridge Bassra take pride in their work and care about their clients' cases and the reputation of the firm. As a result, others know to take this firm seriously and more importantly to consider your case seriously, because they know- we mean business.

You have our assurance that we will give you the best that we can give and treat you openly and with respect and compassion.

Lawyers can be human too.

We are in it together.



Alan Petherbridge

Free Family Law Drop-in Clinic

Petherbridge Bassra offers a free drop in clinic every Tuesday between 5pm and 6pm. Multilingual staff are on hand to dispense free advice in relation to:

- Divorce/ Separation (including separation agreements)
- Financial issues arising from divorce
- Domestic Violence / Harassment (injunctions- including emergency applications)
- Children matters (contact/residence/ emergency applications relating to children)
- Care proceedings (social services involvement)
- Child abduction
- Adoption
- Special Guardianship
- Cohabitation disputes / agreements

Should you require any further information please contact a member of the family law department on 01274 724114.



Introduction

Family problems can take a huge emotional and financial toll on every member of the family, including grandparents and children. Often our clients will have tried their very best to resolve problems themselves, and coming to see a solicitor can be a huge step for them. We understand how hard it can be.

Our team of family law experts have helped many families through the traumatic process of divorce or separation, ensuring the best outcome for you and, in many cases, the children. Care is also taken to clearly resolve financial matters and, wherever possible, we always look to find an amicable solution so you can move forward with your life.

Petherbridge Bassra also has extensive experience of dealing with situations involving children and the Care system/social services. Our caring and practical approach takes the fear or embarrassment out of discussing matters such as Domestic Violence or abuse allegations. Any information you give us is always treated in the strictest confidence.

Please don't keep family problems to yourself. Call today to arrange a no-obligation discussion with one of our Family Law team to help you see a brighter and clearer future for you and your family.



Whether you are married or not, taking the decision to separate can be a tough one. Petherbridge Bassra can advise you on all areas of divorce or separation. Especially where property and financial affairs have been built together Petherbridge Bassra makes sure your interests are safeguarded so you and your family can look to the future after divorce or separation.

Divorce

Our family law team has a lot of experience in helping achieve settlements for people who find themselves in a less than straightforward situation when it comes to dissolving a relationship. Sometimes one person is disputing the idea of a divorce, there may be religious factors such as divorce not being 'recognised' by a particular faith, or perhaps a marriage was never actually legal in the first place.

Where children are concerned, Petherbridge Bassra's caring and sensitive approach is particularly welcome as we always aim to make sure the best possible provision is made for their future. Very often a client's first question will be 'what about the children?' or 'how will I manage?' - we completely understand these concerns and together we will find a solution.

Separation

Petherbridge Bassra can also advise on agreements for people about to get married, or couples buying a property together that can safeguard the financial interests of both parties should the relationship break down in the future.

If you would like to know more about the steps involved in divorce or separation, please call one of our family law team today on 01274 724114 or e-mail mail@petherbridgebassra.com.

Finances

The separation of the parties' finances after a breakdown of a relationship or marriage can be a very traumatic and emotional time for all parties involved. Couples may have joint assets to be divided, or on the flip side of this, joint debts.

Petherbridge Bassra deals with matters in a manner sensitive to all parties concerns but with our clients' interests uppermost in our minds. In the case of a breakdown of a marriage finances can be resolved in one of two ways. That is either: by consent of the parties having reached an agreement or by way of an Order of the Court.

For those who are unmarried and own property a resolution of the finances arising from the breakdown of the relationship can be even more stressful. The law which applies to married couples does not apply. We are however able to assist in reaching a negotiation in respect of resolving such matters or making appropriate applications to Court under relevant legislation such as the Trust of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act. This Act allows the Court to declare, in which proportions cohabiting couples own a property.

Whatever your financial situation, contact Petherbridge Bassra for advice on reaching the best possible financial settlement from your divorce or relationship breakdown. Call us today on 01274 724114 or e-mail mail@petherbridgebassra.com. Remember you may be entitled to help with the cost of your legal fees and your first consultation with us is free of charge.

Domestic Violence

Petherbridge Bassra helps people who are being subjected to domestic violence or harassment. Applications to safeguard you and your family from harm by another person can be granted by the Court the same day to protect from an immediate threat.

If the threat is from a partner, we can assist in obtaining emergency orders which prevent the use of threatening violence, harassment or indeed approaching a property. If this order is breached, the respondent would be subject to arrest by the police.

Equally, if you have been unfairly affected by one of these orders and wish to oppose it, Petherbridge Bassra can assist. In circumstances where an order has been enforced through the Civil Courts and an application for committal to prison is made we can provide representation in defending the allegations which may have been made. In respect of enforcement by the Police our criminal department can assist.

We are also able to offer assistance to those who are being harassed by persons who may not fall within the appropriate relationship for Non-Molestation Orders. We are able to seek a Protection from Harassment Act Order which is an order (although not enforceable by the Police) if breached can be enforced by committal through the Civil Courts which may result in a prison sentence of up to two years.

If you are feeling scared for your own safety, or the safety of a child/children, please contact us immediately in the strictest confidence. We know that talking about domestic violence is never going to be easy and many people are fearful of repercussions of seeking legal advice but contacting our family law team and putting the appropriate legal measures in place can free you from the shadow of future violence or abuse.



Whatever your financial situation,
contact Petherbridge Bassra for
advice on reaching the best possible
financial settlement from your
divorce or relationship breakdown.



If you are fearful of an ex-partner trying to take the children away from you, or you want to re-establish contact with your children there are many ways we can help.

Petherbridge Bassra's family law team offers a full range of legal services related to children. Whether you live apart from your children and want to establish regular contact with a child or if your children live with you and you wish to seek orders to prevent the removal of a child either from your care or indeed from the country, we can make sure your wishes are represented.

Children

We are able to assist parents who are being refused access to their children and seek to negotiate contact and where necessary seek an order of the Court. We are able to help and advise clients even in circumstances where severe allegations of domestic violence are made and represent the client through the process including finding of fact hearings, preparation of CAFCASS Reports and final hearings.

For those parents who fear that the non-resident parent is going to harm or take the children from their care we are able to obtain, on an emergency basis, orders of the Court to prevent the removal of the children, thereafter seek a Residence Order. That is an order of the court which confirms that the child's ordinary resident is with that parent. This of course does not prevent arrangements being made for Contact with the non-resident parent. Indeed it would be likely that within any application for residence contact with the non-resident parent would also be considered by the Court. It is a general tenant of the Court that the children's welfare is paramount and that every child is entitled to contact with the non-resident parent.

Although not an automatic right, we are also able to assist grandparents seeking contact with the child. This may be the situation where their own child is the non-resident parent and are being refused contact or indeed in a circumstance where there has been a family dispute and contact is being withheld. In such circumstances it would be appropriate for us first to apply to the Court for permission to make an application for contact but in the circumstances of a grandparent this is rarely refused.

Make sure your voice is heard by calling Petherbridge Bassra's family law team. If you are fearful of an ex-partner trying to take the children away from you, or you want to re-establish contact with your children there are many ways we can help.

For those who have involvement with Social Services this is an extremely frightening and confusing time. There are a number of ways in which the Local Authority may be involved ranging from a child suffering an injury to neglect.

Care

The Local Authority may initially seek to work with parents under a child protection plan in which scenario we are able to offer advice and general assistance and attend appropriate meetings with the parents for support.

The Local Authority may initially seek to investigate matters further until satisfied that there is no risk to a child and seek to place the child in temporary care. This may be done on a voluntarily basis. Again we are able to offer advice and support in such circumstances depending on the situation of the individual.

In serious cases the Local Authority may ask a Police inspector to remove a child from the care of the parents. This is called a Police Protection Order and is made in extreme circumstances where a child needs urgent protection and if not taken from the parent's care immediately is likely to suffer significant harm. This is a temporary order intended until such time as the Local Authority can make a formal application to the Court.

The Local Authority may also seek to obtain an Emergency Protection Order. Again this is an order which would be sought on short notice when a child is of likely risk of suffering significant harm and such risk is imminent. Upon the making of such an order this would allow the Local Authority to place a child in temporary foster care until matters are finally considered by the Court, having obtained full information. Again this is a temporary Order and the Local Authority must if a child remains at risk seek an Interim Care Order.



An Interim Care Order can be granted by the Court in such circumstances where a child is likely to suffer significant harm, not removed from the parent's care. This is an Order which would assist in the removal of the child whilst proceedings for a full Care Order take place.

Within those proceedings the Local Authority are obliged to ensure that the parents continue to have contact and that appropriate family members and indeed the parents are assessed as potential carers. The Local Authority would also as part of their case undertake a full assessment of the parents ability to care and it is based on that evidence and the evidence of the Guardian who is an independent person appointed to represent the interest of the child that the Court would ultimately make a decision as to whether the child may be returned to the parents or should be removed from their care indefinitely. Such orders are draconian orders in nature and will only be made after full consideration of the facts and evidence.

We are able to assist parents through this whole process and explain stage by stage process and assist in accessing further urgencies which may assist in developing skills necessary to meet the child's needs.

Make sure your child's voice is heard by contacting the family law team today on 01274 724114.



Splitting up?

Fixed fee divorces
from £400

FREE
initial advice

Speak to Erika on
01274 724114
erika@petherbridgebassra.com
www.petherbridgebassra.com

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Call us now...

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