



18% of couples are living in an unhappy relationship

Why January is Divorce Month

Although the most recent figures from the Office for National Statistics show we are experiencing the lowest number of divorces since 1975, 42% of all marriages in England and Wales are ending in divorce.

January has been long cited as 'divorce month' with the first working Monday of January, (which in 2017 will fall on the 9th of January), seeing an annual rush of divorce inquiries, earning it the nickname "divorce day".

Number of marriages and divorces in England & Wales

Year	Divorces	Marriages
2009	113,949	232,443
2010	119,589	243,808
2011	117,558	249,133
2012	118,140	262,240

Christmas, the straw that broke the camel's back?

While most pack up Christmas decorations, some couples will be calling time on their marriages, having held off initiating divorce until after the family holiday celebrations.

Researchers interviewed 500 divorcees, and a quarter confirmed that while their separation was already planned they had decided not to take the first steps until after a family celebration, such as Christmas.

January divorce phenomenon gathering momentum

It is not just divorce instructions that increase in January, divorce-related web searches and phone enquiries also soar. Stats from The National Family Mediation website for the first few days of 2016 showed page visits and users were up 40% over January 2015 which had, until that point, been the highest ever figure.

This increase may follow from a change in the law in 2014 requiring people to "actively consider mediation" before applying for a financial order within divorce.

However, with over 100,000 marriages ending each year, and signs that the traditional January upsurge in separations will continue in 2017, it seems that "Divorce Month" remains an appropriate title.

"Our analysis shows that the idea January is Divorce Month is no media myth, but a proven phenomenon," says Jane Robey, NFM's Chief Executive.

How we can help

The breakdown of a marriage can be a highly emotive and stressful period.

Understanding your options and legal position before embarking on any definite course of action can often help. Our team of highly trained solicitors can help set out the facts so you know where you stand.

Call us on 01525 450520 to book a 45 minute appointment with one of our experienced solicitors for a fixed fee price of £79 plus VAT.

Or come along to one of our Free Family Clinics on the last Thursday of every month at our Leighton Buzzard offices.

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Come along to our **FREE FAMILY LAW CLINIC** every last Thursday of the month

Helping you and your family through divorce

Are you worried about going through divorce?

We can guide and help you through this difficult time.

Our solicitors can make a difference