

Alexander Grace

Chartered Financial Planners

Helping to Secure *Your* Financial Future Beyond Your Divorce

Pensions & Divorce Financial Specialists



Did you know a third of all marriages in England and Wales will end in divorce?

And the highest cumulative divorce rate of 46.3% is among couples who've been married for thirty years or more? So, if *you're* already separated or are considering ending your marriage, *you're* by no means alone.

In most cases, the longer you've been married, the more assets your partnership is likely to have accumulated along the way. But whether you've been married for four or forty years, it's vital you get the right advice to make sure your financial settlement is fair and works in the best way to secure your financial future.

Sharing Assets on Your Divorce

When facing a divorce, high-value marital assets such as your family home, businesses, shares, property investments, antiques, savings, and luxury cars are likely to be on your list of assets to be shared. A pension perhaps isn't first to mind.

Unfortunately, pensions are often undervalued or even overlooked during a divorce. But a pension can be one of the highest value matrimonial assets a couple has — and could even be worth more than your main home.

A Pension is a High-Value Asset

It's imperative to take any pensions into account when agreeing your divorce settlement. Don't simply allow one of your high-value assets to slip by unnoticed or underestimated.

As establishing the value of a pension can be complex, it makes sense to get the sound financial advice you need early, so you're in the strongest position possible.

Shaping Your Divorce Settlement

Reaching a fair divorce settlement can be difficult. But financial decisions made at this highly emotional time can have significant and lifelong consequences for your future finances and *your* new life. In many cases, the harsh reality of unguided financial decisions made during a divorce often won't become evident until years into *your* future.

That's why, along with your divorce solicitor, it's important to involve a chartered financial adviser early on in your separation process. While your solicitor will focus on the exercise of ending your marriage, your financial planner will focus on the financial implications of decisions made and how your finances will best work for you as you begin your new life.

Along with ensuring a division of assets that makes the best financial sense for you, your financial planner will ensure you remain in the best possible tax position and don't pay unnecessary Capital Gains Tax.

Engaging a specialist financial planner in *your* divorce can:

- Give you the expert financial guidance you need
- Provide an accurate calculation of the value of any pensions
- Assist with the completion of specific paperwork, such as the financial review
- Speed up the divorce process
- Help distribute assets fairly
- Help split assets in the most tax-efficient way
- Advise on investing your divorce proceeds
- Negotiate effectively on your behalf
- Help you to make the right decisions and reorganise your life
- Help you to create a strong financial future

Don't wait until your divorce settlement is agreed before involving a financial planner.

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Your Pension Entitlement

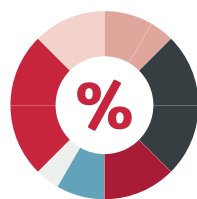
Did you know divorce settlement negligence claims against solicitors for undervaluing pensions have soared since 2012?

Valuing pension benefits can be highly complex. And it's all too easy for underfunded schemes to be overlooked. Potential underfunding, along with early retirement benefits, could mean the fair value of final salary benefits would have been almost double the valuation provided by the pension trustees.

By involving a specialist financial planner to calculate the value of any pensions during your divorce accurately, you could be saving yourself from future stresses and being seriously short-changed.

Take Control of Your Financial Future

Since December 2000, it's been a legal requirement for any pension benefits, apart from the state pension, to be included in a divorce settlement. However, how pension benefits are divided can take different forms. We'll advise you on the best option for you, depending on your financial position and what will work well for you moving forwards.



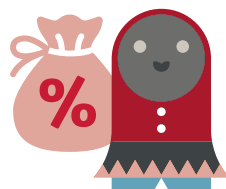
Pension Sharing

A pension sharing agreement allows the value of any pensions to be divided when you divorce and provides you with a clean break. You can either choose to become a member of the existing pension scheme or have the pension's value moved to a new provider.



Pension Offsetting

You can choose to offset the value of a pension against other assets. For example, your partner could keep their pension while you keep your main home.



Pension Attachment & Pension Earmarking

A pension attachment allows part, or all, of a pension to become payable to the former partner when the pension pays out.

Helping You Build a New Life

Whether you're the recipient or the sharer of a pension following a divorce, specialist advice from a chartered financial adviser will help you move into your new life with confidence.

Your financial planner will ensure you receive your fair share of the asset, provide you with the pension investment advice you need and advise you on the best way to rebuild your pension.

Our Pension & Divorce Services At Alexander Grace, we can help you with:

- Assessing your pension arrangements and providing advice on members' rights
- Pension sharing and divorce reports
- Forensic investigations
- Dealing with international considerations, such as an overseas residence and offshore pension entitlements
- Alternative ways of sharing pension resources to best suit your financial position
- Negotiating pension settlements between parties
- Providing an expert witness for the court
- A completely independent report for the court
- Guidance on implementing pension sharing orders for both parties' best interests
- A full range of post-divorce pension planning and investment advice

You may also need our specialist support when:

- You need guidance about the level of income likely to be generated by a pension share
- Your pension assets are likely to exceed the Lifetime Allowance
- There's a significant disparity in state pension entitlement
- There's a public sector scheme involved
- There's an older occupational pension scheme, perhaps with high tax-free cash allowances
- There's a serious medical condition



Protect *Your* Family's Wealth from Divorce with a Family Investment Company

Whether to protect your family's wealth from divorce or mitigating inheritance tax, Family Investment Companies present an increasingly popular alternative to trusts.

Traditionally, trusts have been fundamental in wealth and succession planning, but they don't always prove to be impenetrable. From paying inheritance tax to assets being accessible during a divorce, a trust isn't necessarily guaranteed to give you the peace of mind and control over your wealth you need.

A Family Investment Company is a private limited company incorporated explicitly for wealth and succession planning purposes. Like any other limited company, a family Investment Company can have one or multiple directors who manage the company and control its investments and assets.

A Solid Estate Planning Strategy

By establishing a Family Investment Company, you'll be able to pass down wealth to younger generations in a tax-efficient way. It will also allow you to set restrictions on share transfers, so they can't be transferred outside of the family in the case of a divorce. And draw up a legally binding shareholders' agreement to cover discrete matters, such as the company's ownership and assets.

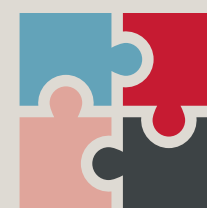
Family Investment Companies can also be funded in various ways, aren't subject to ten-yearly inheritance tax charges and can be established without generating an immediate lifetime inheritance tax charge. However, as with all limited companies, there are administrative requirements to consider.

Ascertaining if a Family Investment Company's structure is suitable for your specific circumstances can be complex, so it's essential you get the advice you need from a specialist financial planner.

Alexander Grace *Your* Pensions & Divorce Financial Specialists

Here to Help *You* Navigate the Financial Complexities of *Your* Divorce

From pre-divorce planning and financial negotiations to post-divorce planning and life insurance, we'll be with you every step of the way and help you steer through this challenging time.



Pre-Divorce Planning

Before financial negotiations begin, our pre-divorce planning service will equip you with everything you need to move forwards with certainty. We'll help you gather, analyse, and understand the right information, putting you in a strong position to make sound financial decisions for your future and those you care about.



Financial Negotiations

Your financial settlement will be one of the most critical aspects of your divorce. So you must get the advice, reassurance, and guidance you need during the negotiation stage. We'll help you to fully understand your proposed financial settlement and explore whether it will work for you in the future.

We'll work closely with your solicitor and national pension actuary firms, helping the process proceed smoothly and providing you with independent pension valuations for your settlement. Should your case go to court, we can also introduce impartial pension actuaries to carry out any report work needed.



Post-Divorce Planning

Using cash flow modelling to create a visual illustration of your financial future, we'll help you consider various scenarios to support the best decisions to create financial security. Our annual review service will make sure your financial plan continues to meet your needs or is adjusted should your circumstances have changed.

We can also advise and arrange life insurance in connection with maintenance orders.

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Here to help *You* Start Your New Life with Confidence

As chartered financial planners based near the National Exhibition Centre in Meriden, Alexander Grace is the Midlands' hub of the Independent Wealth Planners Group. We're a friendly team of 34 professionals looking after 1,500 clients, managing over £700 million and providing fully independent advice with access to the entire financial market.

We understand you'll have specific immediate needs and aspirations for the future. That's why we'll get to know you well and produce an individually tailored strategy. Our expert financial planners will work with you to create an effective, uncomplicated financial plan that will best suit your needs for today. And provide the peace of mind you need for a financially secure tomorrow.

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