

## **THE DANGERS OF DIY DIVORCES, SEPARATION AGREEMENTS PRE-NUPS AND WILLS**

In these times of economic hardship everyone is naturally trying to cut costs and save money at every opportunity.

And with information freely available at our fingertips via the internet it is so easy to download free or cheap packages to meet what we could consider to be, rightly or wrongly, our legal needs.

Whilst, I fully support the notion of shopping around to get the best deal it is important like with like is compared and therefore you don't end up with an inferior product dictated solely by the price.

The worst thing you can do is cut out the legal advisors altogether, especially if you are changing and/or fixing your legal position. In such circumstances, it is essential people obtain legal advice as to what their starting legal position is, how this may change by the natural process of law so that they can make an informed decision upon the compromises they are prepared to make with the full appreciation of the consequences of those compromises.

Common problems include, but are not limited to, parties erroneously believing they are on a level playing field with the other and as a consequence of this false belief one party may take, and not necessarily intentionally, an unfair advantage of a dominant position. Alternatively, what may have seemed fair to the parties at the time agreement is reached, due to the lack of an appreciation of the potential effects and consequences, the agreement can turn out to be grossly unfair, leading to financial hardship in the future and worse, may not be rectifiable.

Even if parties do negotiate their own agreements they should get them formally prepared by a solicitor to ensure the parties intentions are properly recorded and are binding and enforceable.

In the writer's own experience, what starts out as a cost cutting exercise ends up costing far more in money and distress in the future trying to rectify the damage caused by the cost cutting in the first place.

If the cost of obtaining proper legal advice is making the idea of a DIY divorce, separation agreement, pre-nuptial agreement or a Will more appealing then call Sarah Hull on 0113 2390088 or E- [sarah@nortonconnor.co.uk](mailto:sarah@nortonconnor.co.uk) for more information about the range of fixed fee arrangements that may be available.