



News Release

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Frodsham's divorcing families urged to mediate, not litigate

Keep talking – this is the message to separating or divorcing Frodsham parents from local law firm Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR), following the biggest shake-up of family law for many years.

The Family Justice Review Panel has just published an interim report which recommends that couples should be urged to avoid lengthy courtroom battles and settle their disputes over children and finances by themselves or through mediation.

Frodsham-based family law partner Ruth Hetherington agrees with the report's author, former civil servant David Norgrove, court battles are unpleasant, expensive and take too long.

The report stops short of recommending an automatic presumption of 'shared parenting' but suggests courts should be able to order reductions or suspensions in maintenance where the resident parent refuses contact to their former partners. It also reinforces the important role grandparents play in the life of a child and wants contact arrangements to recognise these key relationships.

She said: "Resolving children and financial matters through mediation and the collaborative law process is a much better solution for everyone. A decision is reached much more quickly and hopefully the bitterness and recriminations created by expensive, lengthy courtroom battles are reduced.

"Keep talking is certainly the message that comes from this report. We all want to make the process of separation and divorce as painless as possible. It is in everyone's interests if couples can reach agreement and certainly far better for the children."

For guidance on taking a more amicable approach to divorce, contact Ruth Hetherington at Forshaws Davies Ridgway, Frodsham, on 01928 739300.

www.fdrlaw.co.uk.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

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About Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP (FDR)

- FDR is a full service legal practice with five offices in Cheshire and Warrington
- 18 Partners
- Over 120 staff
- Top 15 practice in NW
- Top 200 practice in England & Wales
- Mortgage Strategy Awards 2009 & 2010 'Best Conveyancer' Runner Up
- Services include: Commercial Law, Conveyancing, Criminal, Family, Litigation, Wills & Probate

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