End of the school holidays, end of the marriage? Why September can be a busy time for families and Family Lawyers

Many people are talking about recent celebrities who are going through a divorce… *"yes, including Jennifer Lopez filing for divorce from Ben Affleck on the 2nd year anniversary of their short marriage."*

The decision to end the marriage is never an easy one and if you have children, the timing of it can make things complex. Sadly, but perhaps not unsurprisingly, divorce rates reveal that 42% of marriages end in divorce and the "*peak*" age is between 40 and 44. The medium length of a marriage is 12.9 years and one of the main reasons for divorce is that the couple simply "*fall out of love*". Historically, women have been more likely to apply for divorce than men. Interestingly, divorce rates for the over 65's are increasing. However, despite what was reported in the media about the impact of the global pandemic on divorce rates that enforced closer living, led to higher divorce rates, it seems 2022 recorded the lowest number of divorces since 1971.

This article is intended to give a general overview of the law for educational purposes and is not intended to be a substitute for specific legal advice and should not be relied upon for this purpose. No liability is accepted for any error or omission contained her

The summer holidays are one of the quietest times of the year for us as family lawyers. Also, there is a common myth that the court closes over the summer holidays. On the contrary, family solicitors and the court are still working during the summer period, whilst families are focusing on their holidays, child care arrangements and ensuring that a routine is maintained during the summer holidays alongside their jobs and other commitments.

Along with a New Year, the end of the summer holidays can be one of the busiest times of the year for family lawyers. It could be because holidays and the subsequent loss of our routines can be a very stressful time for families, emotionally, physically and financially. This can result in an already-tested marriage coming to an end. Families look forward to the holidays and getting away from the mundane realities of everyday life. However, for couples already feeling the strain, time away can highlight the difficulties in the marriage and confirm what has long been suspected.

Many people find it helpful to obtain confidential legal advice on what it may mean if things do not improve in the relationship, or a hope for reconciliation has not emerged.

If you are considering a separation, or finalising a separation by way of a divorce, we at Hopkin Murray Beskine have a team of Family Law specialists who can assist you. If you need advice please contact FamilyPrivate@hmbsolicitors.co.uk or on **020 7272 1234.**

Chloe Langdon, Specialist Family Solicitor