

## Family & Relationships

It's a sad fact of life that an increasing number of relationships fail. Whether you are married or living with your partner, the consequences of any relationship breakdown can be traumatic and far-reaching. At such a time, Stephensons can offer the practical legal support you need, as well as arranging assistance with other issues such as finance and child welfare. Our large and experienced team helps both individuals and couples to find the best solution to their particular situation. Our focus is on achieving an amicable outcome, through methods such as collaboration and mediation.



### We can help with

#### Unmarried couples

We can offer pre-nuptial (for couples getting married) and co-habitation (for couples planning on living together) agreements, setting out your rights and responsibilities early on in a relationship. Such arrangements not only ensure the greatest legal rights, they also help to minimise arguments and settle differences in the unfortunate event of a relationship breakdown.

#### Divorce and separation

Whether married or living together, there are a lot of things to sort out when a relationship breaks down. We can help to take care of all the personal and financial aspects that arise, such as fairly dividing your house, belongings and business interests and ensuring fair contact with your children.

#### Disputes concerning children

When children are involved, their welfare has to take priority. We can fight for contact rights on behalf of parents or other family members and will deal with Social Services if appropriate. However, we are firm believers in finding amicable resolutions where possible, to minimise the upset felt by children.

#### Financial settlements and property disputes

A breakdown often leads to disputes over property and finance. This can be especially problematic in the case of unmarried couples, but also contentious for many married couples too. Taking into consideration your overall financial situation, we can fight for your share or defend your rights over your home and other important assets. We are particularly experienced in negotiating settlements where the claims are substantial or complex, involving for example, pensions and family-owned businesses.

#### Michael Devlin Partner

Member of Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel Accreditation Scheme. Listed in the Chambers Directory to the Profession as a 'leader in the field'.



#### Amanda Rimmer Partner

Member of Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel Accreditation Scheme. Member of Family Law Accreditation Scheme (Advanced).



#### Andrew Mountain Partner

Specialises in children law. A member of Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel Accreditation Scheme.



#### Karen Atkins Partner

An accredited specialist with resolution.



## Domestic Violence

Breakdowns can, on occasion, turn nasty and involve violence or threat of it to one of the parties or children involved. In this worst case scenario, our rapid response team can arrange emergency protection within 24 hrs, by means of an injunction, banning your partner from your home

**Victoria Melling**  
**Associate**  
Member of Solicitors  
Regulation Authority's  
Family Law  
Accreditation  
Scheme.



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## Key facts about us

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- We have one of the largest family teams in the North West, comprising more than 35 dedicated specialists across all our offices.
- We are one of the few firms with the strength in depth to handle every type of case, from routine paperwork to distressing situations involving children or complex financial affairs.
- We place great emphasis on resolving conflicts amicably where possible. We are one of only a few firms nationally to practice collaborative law. This is a process in which lawyers on both sides work together to reduce the time, costs and heartache of getting divorced.
- We take a rounded view, drawing on the expertise of a whole range of experienced and knowledgeable professionals to pursue your case and provide a complete support network.
- **'The team gives its all, no matter how large or small the case'** - The Chambers Guide to the Legal Profession.

**Donna Roberts**  
**Associate**



**Nick Hodson**  
**Associate**



**Joanne Hurcombe**  
**Associate**



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## Affiliations

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We are active and leading members of key associations to enhance our ability to help you:

- Family Law Association
- Solicitors Regulation Authority Family Law Accreditation Scheme
- Solicitors Regulation Authority Children Panel Accreditation Scheme

## Contact Us

Please feel free to contact us if you would like further information on any aspect of our work. Our friendly team is always on hand to help and advise you. We can be contacted directly on:

**01942 777777**

**[www.stephensons.co.uk](http://www.stephensons.co.uk)**

## About Stephensons

Stephensons provides legal advice for all aspects of your personal or business life. By understanding your circumstances and keeping the red-tape to ourselves, we focus on efficiently delivering what you need, when you need it. Operating from a number of regional locations, we rank among the top 100 UK law firms and are one of the fastest growing practices in the north west. With over 400 staff, you can trust our specialists to take care of things on your behalf, always putting your best interests first. So, for legal advice and action the way you want it, just turn to Stephensons.