

For Immediate Release

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'No-fault' legislation ushers in new era of more amicable divorce

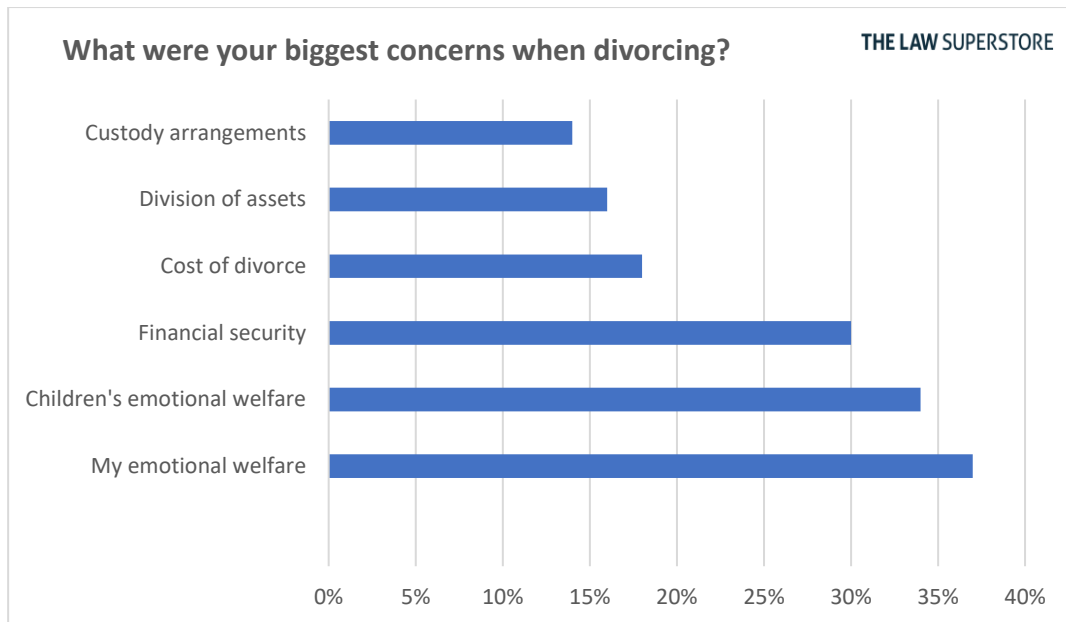
- *'Divorce Day' is approaching on 9th January 2023 – the first working Monday of the year*
- *Divorce rate is currently at its highest in a decade according to Ministry of Justice*
- *New research shows the majority of divorcees are reporting a positive divorce experience*
- *Over half (52%) of divorcees have an amicable divorce and 87% are happier afterwards*
- *Emotional welfare is biggest concern, over financial and practical arrangements*
- *Case study Dean explains how he achieved a positive divorce after his wife had an affair*

As 'Divorce Day' approaches on 9th January 2023 – the first working Monday after the festive period, when lawyers traditionally report a surge in divorce-related enquiries - new research by The Law Superstore shows that we could be entering a new era of more amicable divorce, encouraged by the introduction of 'no fault' legislation in April this year which has significantly reduced the potential for conflict.

The most recent Family Court Statistics from the Ministry of Justice shows the divorce rate is at its highest in a decade, with 33,500 applications made between April and June 2022, (+22% annual increase). During the period, 99% of applications were made under the new legislation, suggesting that divorcees are keen to take the simplest, cheapest route to dissolving the marriage and avoid apportioning blame. Analysis of Google Trends data shows the peak for 'divorce' searches occurred on 3-9 April this year, coinciding with the launch of no-fault legislation, pushing the traditional January surge into second spot.

But despite high divorce rates and the impending Christmas holidays, a challenging period for many married couples, a new survey of 500 divorcees carried out by legal comparison site [The Law Superstore](#) shows that a large proportion report positive experiences of divorce – a trend which is likely to continue to grow further now the need to apportion blame has been removed.

Over half (52%) of those surveyed by The Law Superstore stated that they believed their divorce was amicable and over a third (35%) said they remain in touch with their ex-partner. The vast majority (87%) stated they felt happier after their divorce. The emotional impact is the biggest concern of divorcees, taking precedence over the financial impact and practical arrangements such as custody of children and division of assets. Most divorces occur in the 36 – 45 age group, perhaps resulting from the pressures of the 'sandwich generation' often responsible for raising a family while caring for aging parents.



Rob Houghton, CEO of The Law Superstore, said: *“Before April this year, achieving an amicable divorce was very much down to personal determination and patience on both sides. But following the biggest shake up of divorce law in half a century, couples can now go through divorce without being forced to apportion blame – and it’s clear that demand for this route is already extremely high.*”

“The festive period can create a pressure cooker environment for many married couples, with the added stress this year of financial worries combined with the cost of Christmas. As we approach Divorce Day, couples wishing to end their marriage can benefit from a less hostile process which, together with a rise in popularity of mediation services, is making it easier than ever to have a positive divorce experience. It can also cost significantly less in legal fees when couples approach their divorce in an amicable, non-confrontational way.”

Solicitor Andrew Ford, of Andrew Ford Solicitors, added: *“No fault divorce has helped minimise the potential for upset, hurt and disagreement in divorce proceedings. Absolutely an all-round good thing.”*

Case Study: Dean’s divorce story

Dean Hampton* (age 35), who is based in West London and works for a software start-up, married at the age of 26 and broke up with his ex when his son was just a year old. Dean moved out when his wife told him that she’d had an affair with another man.

“It was like dropping a hand grenade into the relationship,” he said. Nevertheless, they decided to give it another shot and attended couples counselling together.

But when Dean’s wife confessed to being unfaithful again a year later, he decided to call time on the marriage. *“It was traumatic, but weirdly the second time was a lot easier because at that point I could just check out.”* Dean moved to London while his wife stayed in the family home in Croydon as the primary caregiver to their one-year-old son. As well as the emotional turmoil that comes with a relationship ending, Dean experienced a dramatic

fall in his living standards. *“The difference in cost between a mortgage on a house down in Croydon versus renting in London is huge, so, I was I was very much out of pocket.”*

At the time the UK still had a fault-based divorce system. The couple decided to wait until they could use the grounds of three years’ separation. Dean wanted the divorce process to be as easy as possible, saying that he *“chose happiness”*. They tried to make the divorce proceedings as non-confrontational as possible, even sharing the same divorce solicitor. Dean could have let his hurt feelings turn their divorce into a battle, or punish his ex through the process, but he tried hard to stay reasonable throughout.

Mediation definitely helped. Dean attended with his ex, where a trained professional talked them through their concerns and helped them find common ground. But achieving an amicable divorce was mostly down to having the right mindset. *“I think it was just making sure that my mindset was straight on it, which was, essentially, that we were dissolving a contract. I tried to be matter of fact about it.”*

Three years after his divorce, Dean is now happily remarried. *“Divorce hasn’t tarnished my view of marriage at all,” he said. “I came to realise that divorce isn’t about taking an axe and cutting off your ex-partner. It’s about making sure everyone can take away what they need from that relationship. I’m very happy with the way things turned out. The divorce doesn’t factor too much in my daily thinking, which is nice. It’s just a part of my history.”*

-- ENDS --

Notes to Editors

*Surname has been changed

About the Research

A Google survey of 500 divorcees was carried out by The Law Superstore in September 2022.

About The Law Superstore

The Law Superstore is the UK’s leading comparison site for legal services. With a panel of solicitors and legal service providers from across England and Wales, The Law Superstore makes it simple and straightforward for consumers to find and compare over 130 legal services online, including wills and probates, divorces and pre-nuptial agreements.

Consumers can compare by price, location and service ratings left by previous users, bringing transparency to the online legal services sector. Every provider is quality checked, reputable and fully regulated.

The Law Superstore was acquired in 2017 by reallymoving.com, the UK’s leading price comparison site for home-moving services.

Visit: www.thelawsuperstore.co.uk

For press information: Sarah Lawrence sarah@lawrencepr.co.uk / 07984 422 461.

