

YOU'VE HEARD OF HOLISTIC MEDICINE, SO WHAT ABOUT HOLISTIC LAW?

Catherine Blanchard, who specialises in Family & Matrimonial issues, discusses a new approach to this area of the law.

I am a believer in holistic law. In an age where our GP's recommend a course of acupuncture to assist in combating hayfever, and whilst we are all engaging in the latest health and beauty treatments, why shouldn't our law be the same?

I would not suggest that this can be applied to areas of law such as conveyancing, (unless of course a feng shui consultation on completion is included as part of the quote!) but I believe that family clients require more, and seek to address those needs.

I therefore have a support network for clients, be it to meet their emotional needs, or their financial ones.

The breakdown of a relationship, whether you are married or cohabiting, is always an emotional and distressing time. As well as giving my clients the time and assistance that they need, sometimes extensive emotional support is required, and I recommend counsellors who can help.

Often people do not appreciate that relationship counselling can be just as valuable after a relationship has broken down. It can help people to come to terms with a new situation and look to the future. It is most important for our future

happiness that we do not carry the mistakes from our previous relationships into future relationships. In some circumstances family counselling or children's counselling is appropriate, and can help them to feel listened to.

In addition, whilst a family lawyer does need to have a great deal of supplementary knowledge at their fingertips, (some examples from my experience include businesses in Dubai, police pensions, and quad bike safety) a good lawyer will know how to find the answer, and often that includes accepting advice from an expert. I therefore have good links with IFAs, forensic accountants, mortgage brokers, pension actuaries, surveyors and a great many more hand picked experts. This pool of knowledge can be called on to assist in preparing client's cases, and sometimes it can just be a matter of recommending someone who can help a client invest the money they receive in their settlement.

So, next time you think of a lawyer, try not to just think of a man in a pin striped suit ready to take you from A to B in terms of process, instead ask for more, ask for the holistic treatment...

If you, or a friend, need assistance on the breakdown of a relationship, call Catherine on 01732 228 802 for an informal discussion of your needs, or email at catherine@dmblaw.co.uk.

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