



Financial assets in divorce

Matrimonial lawyers need to engage the right financial experts so that their clients can benefit from immaculate, jargon-free advice and reports.

Our diverse offering as a business means that we draw on firm-wide strengths in forensic accountancy and valuations, tax, pensions and investment management to provide a fully comprehensive package for matrimonial lawyers and their clients.

- **Valuation of assets** – Whether or not there is a discrepancy between the parties' understanding of the financial issues at stake, your client will need to think about the value of their interests in privately-owned companies, the liquidity of the businesses to facilitate any settlement between the spouses and the taxation consequences of the various liquidity options available.
- **Expert witness** – We provide expert reports on behalf of husbands or wives or act as a Single Joint Expert in relation to any or all of these issues. We are also on hand to act as a shadow expert, giving assistance with understanding figures and valuations prepared by others, drafting requests for additional explanations and answering any questions that might arise.
- **Tax advice** – The requirement to split assets between the parties can result in the need to consider multiple taxes. Both general and specific reliefs may assist in mitigating the tax that would otherwise be due and we can assist in identifying what reliefs may be available.
- **Pension-sharing** – We provide pension sharing reports for divorce purposes. Although these reports are often referred to as actuarial reports, it is important to have the relevant pension knowledge and experience to be able to advise on the most suitable approach to sharing the parties' pensions and the resultant implications including the potential impact of the lifetime allowance on higher value pension sharing cases.
- **Investment management** – Your client may have a capital sum which they need to invest in order to provide a regular income or grow for the longer term. Capital needs careful ongoing management and Smith & Williamson has the experience to help. Our core service is discretionary investment management of bespoke diversified portfolios, individually tailored and expertly managed giving the client peace of mind.

Our approach

To get the best results, we believe in working with you to focus on what matters. We provide straightforward, jargon-free reports and advice that enable you to guide your client towards the best possible outcome. We understand your pressures and deadlines, whether set by the Court or your client's circumstances, meaning that you can come to us no matter what the query.

We are proportionate and flexible in the way that we work with you, providing a financial services solution to fit your client's needs and circumstances. As affiliate members of Resolution, we are committed to developing and promoting best practice standards and are in tune with the way that you work.

At S&W, we understand that individuals who may never previously had to think about the detail of agreeing an investment strategy, planning future cashflows or matching future financial liabilities to withdrawals, suddenly have to do so - and all at a time when their minds are likely to be occupied by other matters. And so we go out of our way to ensure that we avoid the jargon and keep it simple.

For more information, please contact:

Faye Hall, *Forensic services,*
Smith & Williamson LLP

t: 020 7131 8415 (London) /0117 376 2045 (Bristol)
e: faye.hall@smithandwilliamson.com

Christopher Springett, *Private client tax services,*
Smith & Williamson LLP

t: 020 7131 4412
e: christopher.springett@smithandwilliamson.com

Daniela Glover, *Pensions and financial planning,*
Smith & Williamson Financial Services

t: 020 7131 4440
e: daniela.glover@smithandwilliamson.com

Christian Flackett, *Investment Management,*
Smith & Williamson Investment Management

t: 020 7131 4783
e: christian.flackett@smithandwilliamson.com

Subscribe to receive the latest Smith & Williamson insights, events and publications here: www.smithandwilliamson.com/subscribe

Please remember the value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not receive back the original amount invested. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate all of the products and services referred to in this document, including Tax, Assurance and Business Services

smithandwilliamson.com



Smith & Williamson is a member of Nexia International, a worldwide network of independent accounting and consulting firms.

Offices: London, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cheltenham, Dublin (City and Sandyford), Glasgow, Guildford, Jersey, Salisbury and Southampton.

Smith & Williamson LLP Regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales for a range of investment business activities. A member of Nexia International.

Smith & Williamson Investment Management LLP Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. **Smith & Williamson Financial Services Limited** Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate all of the products and services referred to in this document, including Tax, Assurance and Business Services.

We have taken great care to ensure the accuracy of this publication. However, the publication is written in general terms and you are strongly recommended to seek specific advice before taking any action based on the information it contains. No responsibility can be taken for any loss arising from action taken or refrained from on the basis of this publication.

© Smith & Williamson Holdings Limited 2020. code: 01320eb expiry date is 31/01/2021.