



# *What Do Family Lawyers Do?*



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Most people will be familiar with the role of a conveyancing solicitor when buying a property or a probate practitioner for writing a will, however often one may wonder what family lawyers do for their clients.

When facing complex issues related to the family unit such as marriage, divorce, child custody, and adoption, many individuals may not realise the immense value that a family lawyer can bring to their situation.

In this eBook, we shed light on the pivotal role that family lawyers play in navigating these sensitive and often challenging matters.

# The definition of Family Law

Just as the name suggests, family law encompasses a broad range of legal matters that revolve around familial relationships. This branch of law covers a wide range of legal issues such as the breakdown of a marriage (legal separation or divorce), child custody, adoption, maintenance and domestic violence.

A family lawyer specialises in handling these delicate matters, providing expert guidance and legal representation to individuals and families during times of transition and uncertainty.



## What do family lawyers do?

Solicitors specialising in the field of family law serve as advocates and advisors, offering comprehensive legal assistance and support in various crucial areas of family life. They possess a deep understanding of legal intricacies, particularly considering the complicated nature of family units. Essentially a family lawyer must leverage their expertise to protect the rights and interests of their clients.

## Guide clients through separation or divorce proceedings

One of the most common scenarios in which a family lawyer is indispensable is during a breakdown of a marriage, be it a legal separation, judicial separation or the final step, divorce. A family lawyer is well-versed in the complex legal procedures involved in separation and divorce, including property division, spousal support, and child custody arrangements. They act as mediators, striving to achieve fair settlements and resolutions while alleviating the emotional strain often associated with the end of a marriage.



## Help clients navigate child custody and visitation rights

Child custody disputes can be emotionally charged and contentious, and often it's the children at the centre of these disputes who suffer the greatest. So it's imperative that an amicable resolution can be reached as soon as possible. Achieving this can be difficult, particularly in child custody cases where both parents are seeking joint custody. However joint custody in a real 50:50 sense occurs only in 1% of cases.

A family lawyer plays a pivotal role in advocating for the best interests of the child and ensuring that custody and visitation arrangements are fair and suitable for all parties involved. Their experience in negotiating and mediating these matters helps create stable environments for children during times of upheaval.

## Assist clients with adoption procedures

Adoption is a beautiful and life-changing process, but it also involves intricate legal procedures. Family lawyers facilitate adoption processes, guiding prospective parents through the necessary steps and paperwork. Their expertise ensures that the adoption is conducted legally and smoothly, offering families the opportunity to expand through adoption with confidence and reassurance.



## The importance of family lawyers

The family unit is the foundation of society so when there is conflict or upheaval, be it a marriage breakdown or child custody issue, it can have a life-changing impact on everyone involved. Finding an amicable resolution is the only way that everyone can start to rebuild their lives, and family solicitors play a key role in getting to this point. Engaging with a family lawyer early on in the process brings a wealth of benefits to the table, so let's look at some of those in more detail.

### Expert knowledge and experience

Navigating family law matters demands a deep understanding of legal nuances. Family lawyers possess the expertise needed to interpret complex laws and regulations, ensuring that their client's rights are protected and upheld throughout the legal process.

Of course, every family situation is unique, so choosing a solicitor who specialises in family law is essential as they have the knowledge and experience to handle any family law case, regardless of how complicated it may appear.

## Objective support during emotional times

Emotions can run high during family-related legal matters, mainly when children are involved. At a time like this, it can be challenging to make clear decisions through the mist of hurt or anger. So it's important to have an objective voice of reason on your side, to help you find clarity in choosing the right option for you and your loved ones. A family lawyer serves as an unbiased source of guidance, offering a rational perspective and helping clients make sound decisions amid emotional turmoil.



## When do you need a family lawyer?

Knowing when to involve a family lawyer can make a significant difference in the outcome of your case. The more negotiating that takes place in the courtroom, the more costly it will be for you, not to mention time-consuming. Essentially, the sooner you can engage with a family solicitor, the better it will be for you and all parties concerned.

# Summit Law are the family lawyers you need in Ireland

When it comes to the family unit, any upheaval or dispute can be extremely upsetting and unsettling for everyone involved.

At Summit Law, we understand that heightened emotions can make even the simplest of family law cases challenging to navigate. Our team of experienced family lawyers is dedicated to providing you with the highest expertise and support as we guide you through these turbulent times. Here are some of the family law services available at Summit Law:

- Legal/Judicial separation
- Divorce
- Child custody
- Adoption
- And many more

Our goal is to guide you through these intricate legal matters, ensuring your rights are protected and your interests are represented.

Choosing Summit Law means choosing unparalleled dedication and commitment. We understand the complexities of family law and are ready to provide you with the personalised guidance and legal representation you deserve, whilst also keeping the legal costs more manageable for your pocket.

Our compassionate and experienced team is here to assist you every step of the way. Contact us today at [cillin@slaw.ie](mailto:cillin@slaw.ie) or call **01 223 4910** to learn more about how we can help you navigate the intricate landscape of Family Law in Ireland.





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