



## **DIVORCE**

### **What are the grounds for divorce?**

All divorces are granted because of the irretrievable breakdown of a marriage but there are only certain ways that can be proved. The law outlines four circumstances which can satisfy the court that the marriage has broken down irretrievably: the party who wants a divorce has to prove that (1) the other spouse has committed adultery or (2) the other spouse has behaved unreasonably; (3) the couple have been separated for one year and the other spouse consents to the divorce; (4) the couple have been separated for 2 years, in which case the consent of the other spouse is not required.

In each circumstance, there must be evidence from someone other than the couple.

### **What is a simplified divorce procedure?**

Where there are no children under 16 and no financial issues to be sorted out, a simpler and cheaper divorce is available after one year if both spouses want to be divorced or two years if only one spouse wants to be divorced. In that type of divorce, it is not necessary to involve a witness.