

Dawson Cornwell Newsletter

January 2009

About us

Dawson Cornwell is one of the UK's leading specialist family law firms. Based in London, the firm acts for clients across the UK and internationally who are embarking on divorce or separation. The firm also advises on buying and selling properties and on wills and planning family finances.

People regret not having a pre-nuptial agreement



According to a recent survey by online advice centre InsideDivorce.com, pre-nuptial agreements are still unusual; used by only 2 per cent of people who were divorced or married. Nearly a third of those who had no agreement said in hindsight they regretted the decision not to arrange finances before marriage. The researchers surveyed 700 married, divorced, separated and cohabiting adults across the UK.

Dr Humayra Abedin—the victim of a forced marriage



Dr Abedin's solicitor, Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE

In December 2008, Anne-Marie Hutchinson acted for Dr Humayra Abedin in one of the first cases under the new Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. Dr Abedin had been held captive, drugged by her family in Bangladesh and forced to marry against her will. Following orders obtained in the English courts Dr Abedin was recovered and safely returned to England. This important case attracted extensive media reports worldwide, some of which are shown opposite:

Television Reports

BBC Breakfast - 15 December 2008
Channel 4 News - 19 December 2008
BBC News - 19 December 2008
Sky - 19th December 2008

Newspapers

The Independent - 7 December 2008
Daily Express - 14 December 2008
The Telegraph - 14 December 2008
Daily Mail - 16 December 2008

Recent changes in the law

A post-nuptial agreement has been upheld by the Court of Appeal, even though it provided for the wife "much less than she could have expected if there was no agreement". This recent case clarifies the principles relating to the financial agreements made between husbands and wives after marriage.

McLeod [2008] UKPC 64 – [click here for law report](#)

