



**THE DUBLIN SOLICITORS BAR ASSOCIATION
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR
FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE
Family Courts Bill 2022 Bill No 103 of 2022
18 January 2024
1.00pm – 2.00pm
VIA WEBINAR**

The Family Courts Bill 2022 will introduce the most extensive changes to the practice of family law in Ireland this century. Among the proposed changes are:

- The establishment of a specialist family court division in each jurisdiction with a principal family law judge
- A set of guiding principles to be applied in all family law cases
- An increase in the jurisdiction of the District Court to deal with divorce, judicial separation, civil partnership and cohabitant cases, an increase in the monetary jurisdiction of the District Court for these cases to €1 million.
- Proposal for joint applications for divorce and judicial separation

While most of the changes are welcome and progressive, the proposed transfer of divorce and judicial separation cases to the District Court, in particular, is a matter of serious concern for practitioners given the summary nature of District Court proceedings and due to the significant volume of caseload borne by the District Court.

DSBA Family Law Committee Chairperson Cliona Costelloe will chair a discussion on the Family Courts Bill with Chairperson of the Child and Family Law Committee of the Law Society Peter Doyle and former chairs Keith Walsh and Helen Coughlan. They will discuss:

1. The Family Courts Bill
2. The fatal flaw in the bill and consequences for practitioners
3. What the DSBA and Law Society can do to fix the problems
4. Discussion and Q&A

SPEAKERS

Peter Doyle is the Principal Solicitor of Doyle Fox & Associates and is the current Chair of the Law Society of Ireland's Child & Family Law Committee. He is a member of Court Service Family Law Development Committee & The Council of European Lawyers. He practices in all areas of Law and Legal advice with a particular emphasis on Family Law and Litigation and is involved in many disciplines of Alternative Dispute Resolution. He has recently spoken at conferences on the implications of the Family Courts Bill at conferences and seminars. Peter gained experience with two legal firms in Dublin and worked for a period in the United States. He opened his practice, Doyle Fox & Associates, in Wicklow in 1999. He has many years' experience in the area of Family Law. He is a trained Mediator and Collaborative Lawyer and was a founding member of the Kildare & West Wicklow Collaborative Lawyers Group. He is a member of voluntary organisations and committees and was one of the first Solicitors on the Family Law Legal Aid Private Practitioners Panel.

Keith Walsh is a solicitor and Senior Counsel specialising in the area of family law. He is a former chair of the Law Society's Child and Family Law committee. He works in partnership in Keith Walsh Solicitors LLP with well-known family law solicitor Aidan Reynolds formerly of Gallagher Shatter. He is a trained mediator, collaborative lawyer and arbitrator. He is the author of Divorce and Judicial Separation Proceedings in the Circuit Court; A Guide to Order 59, 2019, Bloomsbury Professional and co-author with Sonya Dixon B.L. of Domestic Violence: Law and Practice in Ireland, which is due to be published in 2024.

Helen Coughlan has practiced in Patrick J Farrell and Company, Newbridge, Co Kildare for the past 20 years. Helen is an experienced family lawyer and a qualified mediator. She is a trained collaborative law practitioner and is a founder member of the Kildare West Wicklow Collaborative Solicitors Group. Helen has been Chair of the Family and Child Law Committee of the Law Society and President of the Kildare Solicitors Bar Association.

Cliona Costelloe Solicitor is Principal Solicitor of Cliona Costelloe & Company Solicitors a private client law practice specialising in Family Law. Cliona has specialised and has over 21 years of experience in Family law. She specialises in the area of Matrimonial and Family law since qualification and has been involved in many of the leading cases over the years. She is a member of the Law Society of Ireland and the Dublin Solicitors' Bar Association. She is the current Chair of the Family Law and Minors Committee of the DSBA.



PLEASE NOTE 2024 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

Conference Information

Date: 18 January 2024
Time: 1.00pm to 2.00pm
Location: **By Zoom webinar**

Fees: € 65.00 Member
€ 175.00 Non-Member

Registration: **LOG IN DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS**
CPD: **1 Hour Group Study**

Conference Registration Form (Family)

Please complete the registration form below and send this with your payment to:-

Maura Smith, Dublin Solicitors Bar Association, Unit 206, The Capel Building, Mary's Abbey, Dublin 7. Dx 200206 Capel Building

Surname _____

First Name _____

Firm/Organisation _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax. _____

Year of Admission _____ DX _____

E-Mail Address _____

Payment By Cheque, Card or EFT payable to **Dublin Solicitors Bar Association**

[] Member
[] Non-Member
[] Trainee (in a member firm)

CONFIRMATIONS

Booking confirmations will be issued to all delegates by e-mail or fax prior to the seminar. Please present your booking confirmation at the seminar registration desk.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations must be received in writing. For cancellations received 5 working days or less prior to the event, the attendance fee is non refundable.

DISCLAIMER

It may be necessary, for reasons beyond the control of the conference organisers, to alter the content and timing of the program or the identity of the speakers.

For Additional Information contact:-
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