



### Telegraph: UK divorces are getting nastier than ever

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Sophia Money-Coutts speaks to the UK's best divorce solicitors for the Sunday Telegraph. Interviewing Rebecca Cockcroft and Ben Parry-Smith, specialist divorce lawyers in the Family department at Payne Hicks Beach, she asks why UK divorces are getting dirtier than ever, in an article first published online on 15 August 2021 and reproduced with kind permission.

Rebecca Cockcroft, Co-Head of Family, commented that "There has been a real increase in the children work I've done in the last 18 months, and it's been more acrimonious."

Ben Parry-Smith, Family Partner, highlighted another problem caused by the pandemic. Court hearings have shifted to remote hearings via Zoom and have seen all parties – clients and lawyers act in ways they might not otherwise have done. Ben said that "We had one case recently where the other side just left the screen and sent an email saying, 'We're not accepting it, bye.'" He argues that if everyone was there in person that there would be more room for negotiation and less antagonism.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/relationships/uk-divorces-getting-dirtier/>

Rebecca and Ben are part of the firm's top ranked Family department that focuses on providing specialist advice on all areas of family law, including divorce, financial remedy proceedings, arrangements for children, (including international relocation) and financial provision for unmarried parents and cohabitants, the breakdown of civil partnerships and Inheritance Act claims. The team works for a variety of high net worth and ultra high net worth clients on both contentious and non-contentious matters, including those with a complex international angle. Clients highly value its exceptional level of service, astute financial acumen and unparalleled levels of support. Recognised across the industry as one of the best family teams in the UK, the team includes Baroness Shackleton, renowned for being 'the most feared divorce lawyer in Britain' (who has looked after the divorces of Madonna, Sir Paul McCartney, Liam Gallagher, the Duke of York and Prince Charles).

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For further information, please contact by email Rebecca Cockcroft or Ben Parry Smith or telephone on 020 7465 4300

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Click below to read Rebecca and Ben's comments in The Sunday Telegraph