

SKB LAW — PRACTICAL GUIDE

The Professional's Divorce & Pension Protection Toolkit

What Every Professional Needs to Know Before Separation

For professionals in the NHS, education, local government, police, armed forces & private sector.

NHS & Public Sector Specialists

Pension Sharing & Offsetting

Fixed-Fee Strategy Sessions

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For many professionals, pensions are among the most valuable assets accumulated during a marriage. Whether you work in the NHS, education, local government, the police service, the armed forces, or the private sector, understanding your pension position **before** making decisions about divorce can be critical.

■ A pension can easily exceed the value of the family home — yet it is frequently overlooked or under-valued during financial settlements. Early specialist advice protects your position.

SECTION 1

Pension Discovery Checklist

Public Sector Pensions

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NHS Pension Scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> Police Pension Scheme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers' Pension Scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> Firefighters' Pension Scheme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Pension Scheme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Pension Scheme | |

Private Pensions

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace pension | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive pension |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal pension | <input type="checkbox"/> AVC arrangements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SIPP (Self-Invested Personal Pension) | |

SECTION 2

Financial Asset Checklist

■ Property

- Family home
- Buy-to-let property
- Holiday property

■ Investments

- Shares
- ISAs
- Investment portfolios
- Cryptocurrency

■ Business Interests

- Limited company
- Partnership
- Professional practice

SECTION 3

Questions About Your Pension

Do you know the answers to all of the following?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Current value of each pension? | <input type="checkbox"/> Death benefits payable? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Equivalent Value (CEV)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Survivor benefits for a spouse? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Normal retirement age? | <input type="checkbox"/> Whether a pension expert may be needed? |

Public sector pensions such as the NHS, Teachers' and Police schemes are 'defined benefit' arrangements. Their true value is often significantly higher than the headline figure on your statement — specialist pension actuarial advice (a Pension on Divorce Expert, or PODE) is frequently required.

SECTION 4

Pension Sharing Explained

A pension can be dealt with in several ways during a financial settlement. Each option has advantages and disadvantages depending on your individual circumstances.

Pension Sharing

A percentage of one pension is transferred to the other spouse, creating a separate pension pot in their name. A clean break that is independent of the other party's future.

Pension Offsetting

One spouse retains pension benefits while the other receives a greater share of other assets (e.g. the family home). Simpler, but requires careful valuation to ensure fairness.

Pension Attachment

Payments are linked to future pension benefits and paid when the pension comes into payment. Less commonly used — creates ongoing financial dependency.

SECTION 5

Documents to Gather

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pension statements | <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage statements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual benefit statements | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax returns (last 3 years) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CEV valuations | <input type="checkbox"/> Business accounts (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property valuations | |

Questions for Your Solicitor

- ? Is my pension likely to be considered matrimonial property?
- ? Do we need a Pension on Divorce Expert (PODE)?
- ? What is the value of my pension relative to other assets?
- ? Is offsetting appropriate given our asset profile?
- ? What are the tax implications of the options available to me?

Your Action Plan

- Gather all pension documents and statements

- Obtain current CEV valuations from each pension provider
- Identify and list all assets and liabilities
- Prepare for financial disclosure (Form E)
- Seek specialist legal advice early — before making any decisions

Professional advice obtained early can significantly improve decision-making, help ensure a fair outcome on pensions, and reduce the risk of future disputes.

Ready to take the next step?

Book a one-hour Strategy Session with SKB Law. You'll leave with a clear picture of your pension position, your options, and a written action plan.

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