

## Matrimonial & Divorce

Forensic accountants are commonly appointed in matrimonial disputes either by one party (as a party-appointed adviser or expert witness) or by both parties as single joint expert (SJE).

Harwood Hutton can act for either the applicant or respondent or both parties in divorce and other matrimonial proceedings.

As well as the traditional court approach to reaching a financial divorce settlement, we can work with parties who have chosen to adopt the collaborative approach to managing their divorce.

We have undertaken work to assist one or both parties during the divorce process as well as after the financial divorce settlement has been reached in circumstances where one or both parties have not acted in accordance with the terms of a financial order or are seeking amendments to a financial order.

Our instructions will depend on the specifics of the case but typically we are asked give an opinion on the value of assets owned (e.g. business interests), the tax payable on sale or transfer of a business and the level of income that may be received from a business in the future.

### WHY CHOOSE HARWOOD HUTTON

- ◆ We appreciate the sensitive nature of divorce and other matrimonial disputes and can work in accordance with the requirements of the Family Procedure Rules and preparing expert reports and similar output for use in court proceedings
- ◆ We provide the parties with clarity over the financial aspects of their divorce, helping the parties reach a divorce settlement more quickly and efficiently
- ◆ Thanks to our accountancy credentials, we have a broad range of practical experience across a number of industries and business types.

### WHERE WE CAN HELP

- ◆ Form E compilation and/or review
- ◆ Divorce business valuation
- ◆ Assessment of the liquidity of business assets
- ◆ Assessment of historical and future sustainable income
- ◆ Advice on the tax implications of asset splitting
- ◆ Asset tracing and other fact-finding exercises
- ◆ Quantification of losses in connection with enforcement of financial orders
- ◆ Duxbury calculations

### PLEASE BEAR IN MIND...

While the precise role of the expert may vary (whether SJE or party-appointed), the expert's overriding duty is to the Court. As an expert, a forensic accountant must demonstrate independence. Where engaged as an adviser, a forensic accountant has more scope to provide hints and tips. However, an accountant who has acted as an adviser may not be able to accept subsequent instructions as an expert.

After the forensic accountant has produced his or her report it will not be possible to raise questions on new matters within the same instruction, so it is vital to clarify the exact scope of the forensic accountant's instructions at the outset. In a joint engagement this is undertaken by means of a joint letter of instruction, a document that is itself regulated in its content.

### EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

- ◆ Produced an expert report that included calculations of Capital Gains Tax liabilities under different scenarios. Both parties were UK resident with a UK property portfolio, with the exception of one property in Dubai.
- ◆ Appointed SJE in a matrimonial case to value a group of UK and offshore sportswear companies, including the business' brand. The overall valuation of the group was assessed at up to £700,000.
- ◆ Prepared a SJE expert report which valued a party's shareholding in a group of companies and assessed the consequent impact of Capital Gains Tax. Together, the companies comprised a leading specialist food business, with distribution networks and wholesale outlets in the UK. The expert report valued the shareholding under a number of different scenarios and the enterprise value for the group was estimated to be in the region of £11m.
- ◆ Provided valuation schedules of a UK property management business for use by a client in their divorce proceedings.

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FORENSIC ACCOUNTING  
SERVICES

## Our Team



### ADAM STRONACH

is a forensic accountant, registered auditor, Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a member of the Academy of Experts and Expert Witness Institute.

He has been involved in forensic accounting, expert witness and litigation support work for more than 20 years, receiving instructions from solicitors on a wide range of matters.

Adam has given oral evidence in the High Court and in the family courts and has acted for claimants, defendants and as a single joint expert, preparing reports for court, meeting experts to prepare joint statements and assisting counsel where appropriate.



### EMMA TREDGETT

is an experienced Chartered Accountant who previously worked as a Senior Manager in the Deloitte Forensic & Dispute Services group.

Emma has worked on expert witness and litigation support assignments, company valuations, financial investigations and sale and purchase disputes.



### AMANDEEP DHILLON

is a specialist in preparing forensic reports and has experience across a variety of business sectors.

Previously with Mazars, Amandeep has assisted in matrimonial cases where assets were across continents, and has supported the Expert in company valuation work and shareholder disputes. She also has experience dealing with HMRC on technical issues.

Harwood Hutton is a trading style of Harwood Hutton Advisory Services LLP, which is registered in England and Wales (OC398518).

Registered office: 22 Wycombe End, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1NB.

Harwood Hutton Advisory Services LLP is a member of the Network of Independent Forensic Accountants (NIFA) whose member firms are legally separate and independent entities.



### Contact Us

If you would like to speak to a member of our team regarding any disputes concerning your clients, please call us for a no-obligation discussion on 01494 739500. Or email: [adamstronach@harwoodhutton.co.uk](mailto:adamstronach@harwoodhutton.co.uk)

WE OFFER AN INITIAL FREE, NO-OBLIGATION TELEPHONE CALL OR MEETING

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