



Southdown Consultants

Personal Support Case Study: Mary

Case overview:

This was a protracted, contentious divorce, heading towards a final hearing when we were asked to get involved. Despite lengthy negotiations the parties remained a fair distance apart in agreeing a financial settlement.

The total assets in this case were significant. A number of reports had been gathered including a pension report and forensic accountants report for the business. There was broad consent across some aspects of the settlement with the key outstanding one being the amount of capital Mary should receive to help support her future lifestyle.

Assessment of Mary's needs:

As part of the preparation for the final hearing we were asked to work on behalf of Mary to provide some robust data to assist with her settlement claim, which if needs be could be used by her solicitor and barrister.

In addition, our role was to help Mary understand the outcome of each possible settlement scenario so she could gain some confidence about her future financial position.

Mary had had little involvement in financial matters during the marriage. Her husband ran a very successful local business and looked after both the company and personal finances.

It was impressed upon us that Mary required support in understanding the numbers and what it all meant to her. Quite simply, she wanted assurances that she was going to be ok.

Approach to working with Mary and rationale

We suggested to Mary's solicitor that a detailed financial forecast ought to be put together, so Mary could visualise her post divorce lifestyle.

Our forecasts would show and compare the different settlement offers on the table, with the aim being to assist Mary prepare with some confidence for the final hearing.

When meeting and presenting information to Mary, we agreed to do so at a pace that she was comfortable with.

Outcome

The initial report we produced and issued to Mary's solicitor provided the robust data that they needed to support the reasons as to why a particular capital settlement was being contended for.

Our meetings with Mary proved to be extremely beneficial as we were able to demonstrate to her that her future financial position looked healthy, whichever of the settlement options was eventually agreed.

We did this in a very visualise way, bringing the numbers to life with a variety of coloured charts. This really helped Mary's understanding and gave her a huge amount of confidence, knowing that financially she was going to OK post divorce.

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