

ward hadaway

Trusted support for your family's most important moments

Life doesn't come with a script. When relationships change, families grow, or hard situations arise, having legal support you can trust matters more than ever. That's where Ward Hadaway steps in – combining deep expertise, compassion, and practical solutions to guide you through family matters, while offering the full breadth of legal services a firm of its calibre can.

A Firm Built on Depth, Local Roots & National Reach

Ward Hadaway is one of the UK's Top 100 law firms, with offices in Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham and Teesside.

Over recent years the firm has expanded both in geography and in capability: opening new offices, completing mergers (notably with The Endeavour Partnership in Teesside), recruiting top legal talent across many practice areas, and growing its Private Client, Social Housing, Healthcare, Built Environment, and Business law offerings.

Clients choose Ward Hadaway not only because of its scale and reputation, but because of its approach: commercial, straightforward, with deep local knowledge and a commitment to relationship-led service.

The Family & Matrimonial Team: Navigating Change with Sensitivity & Strength

When your personal life feels unsettled—whether through separation, divorce, disputes over children, or complex financial matters—you need a legal partner who understands both the law and the human side of things.

Ward Hadaway's Family & Matrimonial team does exactly that.

- Experienced leadership: The team is led by Liz



Liz Bottrill

Bottrill, who works alongside Managing Associate Rachael Longman, Director, David Burrows, and Solicitor, Sarah Crawford within the Manchester office. Liz is also Executive Partner of the Manchester office and has over 30 years' experience in family law matters including divorce, cohabitation, prenuptial/postnuptial agreements, issues involving children, and more.

- Innovative service models: One of the things setting this team apart is its "One Lawyer, Resolution Together" service. This model supports separating couples to work with one lawyer to reach mutual agreements without the need for adversarial court proceedings. It's a gentler, more collaborative way forward when both parties are able.
- Full spectrum capabilities: Whether the case is straightforward or highly complex, involving high-net-worth financial settlements, business or farms, children's arrangements, or cross-jurisdictional issues—Ward Hadaway's team has a track record of dealing with the sensitive, complicated matters, plus offering the alternatives to litigation when possible.
- Human-centred approach: Testimonials from clients highlight not just technical legal



Rachael Longman



Sarah Crawford



David Burrows

Ward Hadaway as Your All-Round Legal Partner

While the Family team may help during some of life's most personal moments, Ward Hadaway is equipped to help with almost anything legal life might present:

- Private client work: wills, trusts, succession planning,

rural estates, inheritance matters.

- Business law: supporting companies large and small, across the UK and beyond, with commercial, corporate, real estate, dispute resolution, regulatory and built environment matters.
- Public and third sector advice, healthcare, social housing, etc. Ward Hadaway works in many sectors, always aiming for practical, client-focused outcomes.

So when life changes—whether in your family or your affairs—you don't need to go hunting for different specialists all over. Ward Hadaway offers the depth and breadth to support you across many areas, with expert teams that work together.

If you're navigating a family law issue—separation, divorce, child arrangements, financial disputes, or needing agreements for pre or post marriage / cohabitation—ask yourself:

- Do I want legal strength, grounded in experience?
- Do I want someone who understands the emotions, not just the law?
- Am I interested in resolving things in a less adversarial, more collaborative way if possible?

Ward Hadaway's Family & Matrimonial team delivers on all of that. Backed by the wider firm's resources, reputation and reach, it offers a full-service, empathetic, and flexible legal partner.

For those looking for legal advice when family matters matter most, Ward Hadaway is ready to walk the path with you.

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capability, but patience, empathy, clarity in explaining options, and support during what are often emotional and difficult periods. The team stresses listening, tailoring solutions to each family's situation, and seeking less adversarial resolutions when appropriate.

Why It Matters Now

Family law is evolving. More people are seeking non-court solutions. There's growing recognition of how emotional, financial and mental wellbeing are affected by how legal processes are handled. A partner who can combine strength in legal expertise and compassion and creativity is not just a nice option—it can make a real difference to long-term wellbeing.

For those facing separation, divorce, or disputes over children, having clarity and support early can avoid protracted conflict, reduce costs, and preserve dignity.