



Doom Day

January divorce rates soar

January has been dubbed as the busiest month in the calendar year for solicitors dealing with divorce. It is rumoured that among law circles, January is nicknamed “Divorce Month”.

It is estimated that there will be a rise of 15% in couples enquiring for divorce, compared to last year, as many marriages have struggled to make it through difficult financial times.

According to research conducted by the website Takelegaladvice.com, divorce-related matters are up by 30 per cent over the Christmas period compared to last year.

Christmas, a time to spend with family and to share traditions, may cause a great strain on couples, often resulting in the ‘final nail in the coffin’ for many marriages.

For a lot of couples they decide to spend one more Christmas together for the sake of their

family, signing divorce papers early in the next year.

Tanya Roberts, partner at law firm Charles Russell, told The Telegraph that: “January is the month when you tend to see an increase in the number of couples deciding to separate. Having gritted their teeth over Christmas and the New Year, and finally got the children settled into school, they call in a divorce lawyer.”

Of course there are a lot of reasons why couples decide to part; growing apart and affairs are the top two reasons. Financial, social, physical and psychological aspects all play their part too.

A surprising 34% of marriages are expected to end in divorce by the 20th wedding anniversary, with the average marriage lasting for 32 years, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Divorce is obviously a stressful and confusing time for those going through it. More commonly many couples now aim to have amicable settlements without going to court, which can be difficult if one person doesn’t agree with the suggested settlement.

There is a great guide on how to attempt a divorce settlement out of court, which can be found at http://divorcesupport.about.com/od/maritalproblems/ss/get_divorced_9.htm.