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The Do's and Don'ts of Consent Orders

Your essential guide to securing your financial future after divorce

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Welcome to our Consent Order **Do's and Don'ts E-BOOK**

We have compiled all of our **Do's and Don'ts** when it comes to consent orders, to help you navigate and understand your next steps in your divorce.

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Why Consent Orders Matter More Than You Think

Divorce may legally end your marriage, but it doesn't automatically end your financial ties. Without a legally binding Consent Order, either party can make financial claims — even years after the divorce is final. That means your home, savings, pension, or even future income could be at risk.

This guide is here to help you avoid costly mistakes and take control of your financial future. Whether you're still negotiating with your ex or you've already agreed on who gets what, understanding the do's and don'ts of Consent Orders will help you move forward with clarity and confidence.

Fun Fact: One man successfully claimed part of his ex-wife's lottery win—10 years after their divorce because they didn't have a Consent Order in place.





Do Understand What a Consent Order Covers

A Consent Order is a legal document that finalises the financial agreement between you and your ex-spouse. It can include how you divide property, savings, pensions, debts, and whether any ongoing maintenance will be paid. Without it, your financial future remains open to risk.



Even if you've already divided everything informally, you still need a Consent Order to make it legally binding.





Do Reach a Fair Financial Agreement First

Before you apply, you need to agree on how assets and liabilities will be split. This can be done through direct

discussion, mediation, or negotiation — but fairness is key.



Courts won't just 'rubberstamp' your agreement. Judges review it to ensure it's reasonable for both parties.







Verbal agreements or informal arrangements won't protect you. A Consent Order ensures your financial agreement is

legally recognised and enforceable by the court.



Only a court-approved Consent Order can give you a "clean break" — protecting you from future claims.







A Consent Order must be properly drafted in legal terms. Using a solicitor or professional service ensures your

agreement is written clearly and meets court standards.



Fixed-fee drafting services can be a cost-effective alternative to hiring a solicitor by the hour.







You can apply for a Consent Order once you've received your Conditional Order (previously known as decree nisi)

— not before.



Don't wait until after your Final Order (decree absolute). Apply while everything is still fresh and both parties are cooperating.







Even if you don't plan to make future claims, it's important to state this clearly. Your Consent Order should cover all

financial aspects — including pensions, debts, savings, and maintenance.



If you want to ensure a clean break, it must be stated in the order — otherwise, financial claims could still be made later.



