

DIPLOMA CENTRE

Diploma in Family Law



COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of family law in this jurisdiction and will examine recent cutting-edge developments in core areas of family law and practice. The objective of this diploma is to provide practitioners with an essential overview of the many recent developments in family law and the implications for day-to-day client advice, practice, and procedure.

Recent legislative initiatives to be considered will include the *Children and Family Relationships Act 2015*, the *Domestic Violence Act 2018* (which brings in significant changes to reliefs available to those in an intimate relationship), and the *Assisted Human Reproduction Bill 2017*. The course also focuses on topical family law issues, such as family breakdown, child custody, and the increasingly practical issue of enforcement of orders abroad. Other matters reviewed will include parentage, surrogacy arrangements, and the law relating to guardianship, custody of, and access to children.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

On completion of this training programme, participants will have:

- A comprehensive and in-depth understanding of family law;
- An enhanced knowledge of recent judicial decisions and legislative and procedural developments;
- An ability to assess the impact of recent developments on practice and procedure in the family law arena;
- A critical understanding of the family law process.

MODULES

Module 1: Course introduction and advising clients

- Advising clients and taking instructions in family law matters,
- An overview of practical issues and concerns,
- Types of relationships; spouses, civil partners, cohabitants.

Module 2: Prenuptial agreements, nullity and separation agreements

- Prenuptial agreements and enforceability,
- Void and voidable marriages,
- Terms of a separation agreement.

Module 3: Judicial separation, divorce and recognition of foreign divorce decrees

- Grounds for judicial separation; ancillary relief on judicial separation,
- Grounds for divorce; case law and divorce practice and procedure,
- Recognition of a foreign divorce decree,
- Enforcement mechanisms abroad,
- Alternative dispute resolution in family law.

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Module 4: Maintenance, ancillary orders, pensions on separation and divorce

- Maintenance provision: an overview of the current framework,
- Ancillary relief on judicial separation and divorce,
- Pensions on separation and divorce,
- Tax implications of marriage breakdown.

Module 5: Domestic violence and child law

- Remedies available for domestic violence,
- The *Adoption Act 2010*,
- Child abduction,
- The *Children and Family Relationships Act 2015*.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This course is suitable for the following:

- Solicitors, trainee solicitors, paralegals, and other suitable professionals who wish to expand their knowledge of the family law arena with a view to moving into the area;
- Solicitors, new and seasoned family law practitioners, who wish to gain an additional academic qualification and enhance their career opportunities in this dynamic area;
- Solicitors and other suitable professionals who wish to familiarise themselves with family law in Ireland; and
- Social workers, mediators, or relevant professionals who work in this area and who wish to gain a more comprehensive knowledge.

If you are interested in applying for a future offering of the course, please subscribe to our [Interested List](#).

Note: The information in this document is subject to change as course content and modules may be adapted.