

With regard to financial arrangements between you and your spouse, the court takes various matters into account when considering what order should be made. The court considers all the circumstances of the case, gives first consideration to the welfare of any children of the family under the age of 18 and, in particular, the court has regard to the following matters:

1. The income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources which each spouse has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future including, in the case of earning capacity, any increase in that capacity which it would be, in the opinion of the Court, reasonable to expect a person to take steps to acquire.
2. The financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which each spouse has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future.
3. The standard of living enjoyed by the family before the breakdown of the marriage.
4. The ages of each spouse and the duration of the marriage.
5. Any physical or mental disability of each spouse.
6. The contributions which each spouse has made or is likely to make in the foreseeable future to the welfare of the family, including any contribution by looking after the home or caring for the family.
7. The conduct of each spouse, if that conduct is such that it would in the opinion of the Court be inequitable to disregard.
8. The value to each spouse of any benefit which one spouse because of the divorce will lose the chance of acquiring (most usually pension provisions).

The overriding factor in most cases is the reasonable needs of yourself and your spouse.

In most cases, the Courts no longer have power to make orders for child maintenance; an application to the Child Support Agency has to be made for child maintenance to be assessed.

Both you and your spouse have an absolute duty to each other and to the Court to fully disclose your financial position so that a proper financial arrangement can be made.