



Centre for Child and Family Law Reform

Response of the **Centre for Child and Family Law Reform** to Consultation
Exercise on Reducing Family Conflict

Tuesday, 27 November 2018

From *His Honour Michael Horowitz QC, Chair CCFLR*

The **Centre for Child and Family Law Reform**, of which I am Chair, is a London based independent research and pressure group whose aim is to promote practical reform of Family Law on the basis of research and discussion by pooling the views and experience and of academics, practitioners and the Family judiciary. Membership is by invitation.

The Centre aims to meet quarterly. Our current membership includes a Family Division Judge, Mrs Justice Knowles, 2 senior Family Law Lecturers and solicitor and Barrister practitioners representing all levels of experience from junior barristers to Queens Counsel (including the immediate past chair of the Family Law Bar Association) and highly experienced Family Law solicitors.

Our current project is to research whether the Family Court is fit for purpose in low value financial remedy proceedings, a research project being carried out with the assistance of Ministry of Justice consent to access data in selected Family Courts across England.

We have been provided with sight of Resolution recent submission to the Divorce reform consultation which has been circulated for comment to our members.

In summary, we broadly support and wholly endorse Resolution's full and reasoned submissions.

We additionally suggest that consideration be given to a mechanism enabling a sole petitioner to apply to delay the grant of decree absolute until financial issues are addressed. The current proposal to vest a right to apply in a respondent is welcome but the paradoxical possibility of a respondent stealing a march by unilateral application for decree absolute might open a window of potential injustice unless a protective mechanism works both ways.