

Dawson Cornwell Newsletter

July 2010

About us

Dawson Cornwell is one of the UK's leading specialist family law firms. With departments specialising in children and money, the firm differs from other niche matrimonial firms in that it also advises on buying and selling properties and on wills and planning family finances.

Abandoned spouse case

Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE has been involved in a ground-breaking abandoned spouse case in the High Court of Justice. The High Court has ruled that the mother was deliberately stranded in Pakistan by her husband and in-laws who wanted to keep her son, after she was drugged and forcibly taken there in March 2010. As a result of this case, Mrs Justice Hogg is expected to urge the government to protect separated children from emotional harm and to request the UK Border Agency to allow parents abroad to enter the country for hearings involving children.

[Read the article in the Independent](#)

The firm



Carolina Marín Pedreño and Lucy Marks attended the first International Meeting of British and Spanish Lawyers which took place in Malaga on 13th to 15th May 2010. Organised by the Law Society and the Malaga Bar Association, together with the British Spanish Lawyers Association, the conference focused on private client issues in English and Spanish law and the principal differences in the practice of law in England and Spain. Carolina Marín Pedreño presented a talk on child abduction and the issues relevant to both jurisdictions.

Budget for family lawyers

Chancellor George Osborne's emergency Budget contained many cost cutting initiatives. The following may impact upon those separating or planning to divorce: VAT is increased from 17.5% to 20% (from 4 January 2011) which will mean higher legal fees. Capital gains tax is increased from 18% to 28% for higher rate taxpayers from 23 June 2010. The rates of child benefit have been frozen for three years from 2011. Middle income families will be hit by the reduction in tax credit eligibility for families with income in excess of £40,000 (down from £50,000) from April 2011. However, good news for pensioners is that the basic state pension will increase by at least 2.5% from April 2011.

