



CILEX Level 6 Single Subject Certificate/CILEX Level 6 Professional Higher Diploma in Law and Practice/CILEX Level 6 Graduate Fast-Track Diploma

Unit 20 – The Practice of Family Law

Case study materials

June 2025

Information for candidates

- You should familiarise yourself with these case study materials before the examination, taking time to consider the themes raised in the materials.
- You should consider the way in which your knowledge and understanding relate to these materials.
- In the examination, you will be presented with a set of questions which will relate to these materials.
- You may discuss these materials with your tutor(s).

Instructions and information to candidates during the examination

- You are allowed to take your own clean/unannotated copy of this document into the examination. Alternatively, you can access the electronic version of this document in the examination.
- You are allowed to take your own unmarked copy of the following designated statute book into the examination – ***Blackstone's Statutes on Family Law, 31st edition, Rob George, Oxford University Press, 2023.***
- You must comply with the CILEX Exam Regulations – Online Exams at Accredited Centres/CILEX Exam Regulations – Online Exams with Remote Invigilation.

Turn over

CASE STUDY MATERIALS

ADVANCE INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

You are a trainee lawyer employed by the firm Kempstons LLP of The Manor House, Bedford MK42 7AB. The firm's telephone number is (01234) 622964. The email address is admin@kempstons.co.uk and DX address Bedford 3721.

The firm is a high-street practice and one-third of the firm's caseload consists of matrimonial work. The matrimonial team at Kempstons LLP is headed up by the matrimonial partner, Nicola Bryan. The local family court is in Bedford.

You arrive at work to find the following documents on your desk, along with a memo from Nicola Bryan providing you with instructions:

DOCUMENT 1: Memorandum from Nicola Bryan

DOCUMENT 2: Attendance note re Dan Price

DOCUMENT 3: Note of telephone conversation with Seth Hoskins

DOCUMENT 4: Financial Assets Information form for Seth Hoskins

DOCUMENT 5: Attendance note re Alice Jenkins

DOCUMENT 6: Attendance note re Gisela Lamb.

MEMORANDUM

To: Trainee Lawyer

From: Nicola Bryan

Date: {Today's date}

Re: Matters requiring attention

As previously discussed, I will be out of the office for the next week attending a conference. I would be grateful if you could deal with the following matters in my absence.

1. Dan Price

Mr Price is a new client who attended at the office yesterday. I attach a copy of my attendance note of this meeting (**Document 2**). This matter needs to be progressed urgently.

2. Seth Hoskins

I have been dealing with Mr Hoskins' divorce application and I am now working to deal with his financial matters.

Mr Hoskins rang me yesterday. He has some serious concerns about his financial position. I attach a copy of my attendance note (**Document 3**) and also a copy of the Financial Assets Information form that Mr Hoskins completed and emailed yesterday (**Document 4**). Please progress this as a matter of urgency and keep Mr Hoskins informed.

3. Alice Jenkins

Mrs Jenkins is a new client who attended the office yesterday. I attach a copy of my attendance note of this meeting (**Document 5**). Please progress this matter in my absence.

4 Gisela Lamb

Mrs Lamb is a new client who attended at the office yesterday. I attach a copy of my attendance note of this meeting (**Document 6**). Mrs Lamb needs this matter to be progressed urgently.

Turn over

ATTENDANCE NOTE RE DAN PRICE

Client: Dan Price
Date: {Yesterday's date}
Fee earner: Nicola Bryan
File Ref: NB/YS/24/0625/DA
Time taken: 1 hour

Attendance on Dan Price, who is a new client. The relevant identity and conflict checks have been completed. No conflicts have been identified.

The client details are:

Full name: Dan Price
D.O.B. 16 May 1995
Address: Flat 9, Beaumont House, Bedford, MK11 1ZZ
Contact: 0779642579 (Mob)
Occupation: Financial Adviser

Our client attended to obtain initial advice following the breakdown of his marriage.

Dan married his husband, Matthew Price, on 31 August 2019, in Philadelphia, USA.

Our client was born and grew up in the UK. In 2016 he obtained a scholarship to study in America for a Masters degree in business. Following the completion of his studies, Dan obtained a green card, enabling him to work in America and obtained employment in a global financial business.

Dan's husband, Matthew Price, is an American citizen. He is currently working for a global technology company in Philadelphia.

Moving to study in America was a big step for Dan who missed family and friends at home. However, Matthew, who was also studying for a Masters degree, helped him settle. A close friendship developed. Dan and Matthew married in 2019.

At first, the relationship worked well but they were both ambitious and gradually work commitments led to them spending increasing amounts of time apart. Dan found the periods of time apart difficult. More recently, Dan also felt that the relationship had changed. He suspected that Matthew was being unfaithful, which put a strain on the marriage.

In January 2025, Dan was offered a promotion, which he accepted. It was an exciting opportunity that he felt he could not refuse but it involved moving to work in the UK for at least a year. Dan told Matthew and suggested that Matthew could move to the UK with him so that they could both spend time together. However, Matthew refused to consider this; he said he had no wish to live in the UK and doubted that he would even find the time to visit.

Dan reluctantly decided that he had no option but to accept the promotion if he wanted to progress his career. He arrived back in the UK on 1 March.

CASE STUDY MATERIALS

Dan's contact with Matthew since then has been limited. Last week, a mutual friend made contact to inform him that Matthew was developing a close friendship with another man. Dan was upset, though not totally surprised. He rang Matthew to discuss.

Matthew admitted he was in a new relationship. He told Dan that for him the marriage had been a big mistake. Matthew said that he had decided to move on and suggested that Dan should do the same.

Turn over

NOTE OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH SETH HOSKINS

Client: Seth Hoskins
Date: {Yesterday's date}
Fee earner: Nicola Bryan
File Ref: NB/YS/25/067/FIN
Time taken: 1 hour

Following my email to Mr Hoskins to confirm that the divorce application has been served on his wife, Mrs Fern Hoskins, he has phoned me and requested an urgent meeting to discuss how financial matters might be settled.

Mr Hoskins has completed our Financial Assets Information form (**Document 4**). He has also had a discussion with his wife about how the matrimonial assets might be divided and would like to discuss this with us.

Mrs Hoskins has confirmed that she does not wish to remain in the family home. She wishes to buy a three-bedroomed property and has seen a suitable property which is currently on the market for £495,000.

Hoskins Lodge, the land (four acres) and farm buildings belonged originally to Mr Hoskins' parents as part of their adjoining farm. It was transferred to Mr and Mrs Hoskins in early 2000 when they got married. Mr Hoskins uses one of the farm buildings to store the equipment that he needs for his business. Mrs Hoskins has been unable to work full time since a road traffic accident five years ago, but has been able to work from home and provide administrative support for Mr Hoskins' business. In 2019, she was also responsible for managing the conversion of the remaining farm buildings into business units, which now produce a total monthly rental income of £2000.

Mrs Hoskins has suggested that Hoskins Lodge should be sold. Mr Hoskins wishes to retain it and wishes to have it transferred into his sole name. Mrs Hoskins has indicated that she would not disagree, provided that a fair division of their assets can be achieved.

Mr Hoskins has proposed to his wife that he should take a transfer of:

- Hoskins Lodge, land and buildings;
- half the household goods and personal effects;
- a Nissan pick-up truck;

and that Mrs Hoskins should take a transfer of:

- half the household goods and personal effects;
- the cash and investments (currently solely or jointly held);
- the Land Rover Discovery vehicle.

It is his view that this would be a fair division. Mrs Hoskins would then have enough money to buy herself a home and could invest the remainder to produce a good income. He would retain the home, with its family links and his business could continue uninterrupted.

However, Mrs Hoskins was not happy with this proposal. She has told him that she would like to sort out the financial settlement amicably. However, she has also said that if Mr Hoskins does not review and improve his proposal, she will take further legal advice and action.

FINANCIAL ASSETS INFORMATION FORM FOR SETH HOSKINS

PERSONAL INFORMATION			
Client details	Seth Evan Hoskins	Date of birth	16 July 1972
Spouse details	Fern Ann Hoskins	Date of birth	28 February 1975
Child 1 (under 18)	None – two adult children	Date of birth	
Child 2 (under 18)	None	Date of birth	
Child 3 (under 18)	None	Date of birth	
Child 4 (under 18)	None	Date of birth	
Date of marriage	12 August 2000		
ASSET CATEGORY	ASSET DETAIL AND VALUE		ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Family home	<p>Hoskins Lodge, Little Kempston, Bedford, MK22 9ZZ</p> <p>Current value: £1,500,000</p> <p>There is no mortgage.</p> <p>Co-owned by Mr and Mrs Hoskins as beneficial joint tenants.</p>		<p>The property is a converted farm workers' cottage set in four acres of land.</p> <p>It includes outbuildings that have been converted into six business units, with a total current monthly rental value of £2000. Mrs Hoskins was responsible for the conversion and the management of the units.</p> <p>The income is treated as joint income.</p>
Household goods and personal effects	£25,000		
Vehicles	<p>Vehicle 1 – Land Rover Discovery – £25,000</p> <p>Vehicle 2 – Nissan pick-up – £8500</p>		
Employment	<p>Mr Hoskins is a self-employed tree surgeon and landscape gardener, with an average monthly income of £3560.</p> <p>Mrs Hoskins is not currently in employment.</p>		<p>Mrs Hoskins, aged 50, was involved in a serious road traffic accident five years ago which has resulted in physical issues that will limit the employment she could consider. She is currently unemployed.</p>
Current accounts	Magpie Bank plc (joint) £24,500		
Savings and investment accounts	<p>National Savings (joint) £256,000</p> <p>Invest plc Investment Account (Seth H) £526,000</p> <p>Invest plc Investment Account (Fern H) £587,000</p>		<p>Both Mr and Mrs Hoskins received significant inheritances in 2023, which have each been invested in their sole names.</p>
Pensions	<p>Seth Hoskins £256,000</p> <p>Fern Hoskins £98,000</p>		
Other assets	None		

Turn over

DOCUMENT 5

ATTENDANCE NOTE RE ALICE JENKINS

Client: Alice Jenkins
Date: {Yesterday's date}
Fee earner: Nicola Bryan
File Ref: NB/YS/25/054/CHILDREN
Time taken: 1 hour

Attendance on Alice Jenkins, who is a new client. The relevant identity and conflict checks have been completed. No conflicts have been identified.

The client details are:

Full name: Alice Evelyn Jenkins
Address: 28 Valley Drive, Kempston Park, Bedford, MK11 6ZZ
Contact: 079249253463 (Mob)
Occupation: Self-employed – mobile hairdresser

Our client attended to obtain advice regarding her grandchild, Evie Jenkins, who is five years old.

Evie was born 14 February 2020. Her mother is Liberty Jenkins, Alice's daughter. Her father is Jayden Thomas. She has a half-sister, Tegan Jenkins, who is 14 years old.

Alice, whose husband died 10 years ago, has provided child care for both Evie and Tegan since their birth.

When Liberty became pregnant with Tegan, the father refused to have anything further to do with Liberty, so she returned to live with Alice who took on the responsibility of caring for Tegan during the daytime, allowing Liberty return to work.

In March 2019, Liberty met Jayden Thomas. A romantic relationship soon developed and Liberty moved in with Jayden, taking Tegan with her. In February 2020, Evie, Tegan's half-sister, was born. Liberty did not name Jayden on the birth certificate. Liberty returned to work while Alice continued to look after the girls during the daytime.

Liberty's relationship with Jayden was fiery. He was controlling and wanted Liberty to give him her full attention, resenting the close relationship that she had with Tegan. When Evie was born his behaviour became even more demanding. He showed little interest in the children. His relationship with Alice also became very difficult, despite the support that she was providing.

In 2023, Liberty was diagnosed with a terminal illness. As she was unable to work or to care for the girls, and Jayden was not prepared to help, she moved back in with her mother. Alice had to take on the full responsibility of caring for the girls, with Tegan increasingly helping to care for her younger sister. This led to the sisters' relationship becoming very close.

Liberty died in March 2025. As soon as Jayden heard, he told Alice that he was going to take Evie to live with his elderly parents. Evie had met his parents, who live 50 miles away, on only one occasion. Alice suggested that it was not the best time to separate the sisters and to move Evie from the home she knew and the school where she had settled but Jayden insisted that as Evie's father he knew best and that Evie needed to get to know his family and culture. He finally made arrangements to collect Evie two weeks ago. Tegan and Evie were both very upset at parting and Tegan has been unsettled since; Alice suspects that Evie will also be unsettled.

CASE STUDY MATERIALS

Alice tried on several occasions to discuss with Jayden about making arrangements for her to have contact with Evie but he was not prepared to discuss it.

Alice is determined to ensure that the two sisters remain in regular contact. She has tried phoning Jayden on a number of occasions to discuss but he ends the call as soon as he hears her voice.

Turn over

ATTENDANCE NOTE RE GISELA LAMB

Client: Gisela Lamb
Date: {Yesterday's date}
Fee earner: Nicola Bryan
File Ref: NB/YS/25/067/DOM
Time taken: 1 hour

Attendance on Gisela Lamb, who is a new client. The relevant identity and conflict checks have been completed. No conflicts have been identified.

The client details are:

Full name: Gisela Elena Lamb
Address: 12 Dene Avenue, Kempston, Bedford, MK11 3ZZ
Contact: 07296401233 (Mob)
Occupation: Not currently employed

Our client attended to obtain initial advice following the breakdown of her marriage.

Gisela and Nick Lamb married 26 August 2022. They are parents to twin girls, Hania and Kasia, born 12 April 2024.

Gisela and Nick met through work. Nick was recently divorced and the father of two children in their teens. He had just been promoted to be the national Sales Director in his firm when Gisela, who had moved from Poland, and been working in England since 2018, was successful in her application to become his personal assistant.

Working together, they discovered that they shared mutual interests and increasingly spent their leisure time together, going to the theatre and visiting art exhibitions. Their relationship developed and Nick proposed marriage. However, he made it very clear to Gisela that he was enjoying a life free from the challenges of a family and did not want any more children. Following their marriage they moved into 12 Dene Avenue, a new home bought by Nick in his sole name.

Initially, they were very happy but matters changed in the summer of 2023 when Gisela discovered that she was pregnant. She kept the pregnancy secret for several months but eventually had to tell Nick that he was about to become a father again – and a father to two children as she was expecting twins. Nick was not happy. He reminded her that he had always been very clear that he did not want the responsibility and challenge of more children. Gisela, who came from a large family, was upset at his response. Eventually, after several emotional discussions, Nick relented and agreed that Gisela should continue with the pregnancy.

However, having twins upset their previous well-ordered life. Nick's job was challenging and he had become used to coming home to relax in a quiet environment and spending leisure time going to the theatre or dining out; all this changed. Gisela, who had no family support, found all her time and energy was needed to care for the twins. They were not easy babies and Gisela did not have the energy left for the time out with Nick that he wanted. Their relationship deteriorated.

Nick became more and more critical of Gisela's skills in managing the home – the lack of tidiness, her cooking, her lack of care for her own appearance. Gisela's response was that he was being unreasonable and should accept that their life had changed but would gradually improve. The criticisms continually led to arguments. Initially the arguments were verbal but they became physical with Nick grabbing Gisela and shaking her to try to make her listen to him.

CASE STUDY MATERIALS

Yesterday, Nick was due to attend a business award event in the evening in London. Gisela had agreed that she would go with him and that they would stay overnight but when Nick arrived mid-afternoon to collect Gisela, she told him that she could not join him as the friend who was going to babysit was not well. Nick, who was due to get an award, was furious and started shouting at Gisela. This upset the twins, who started crying. Then Nick completely lost his temper. He slapped Gisela across the face and then grabbed her and threw her across the room. She fell heavily, hitting her head on a chair. Nick stormed out, shouting that things had to change when he returned and he would make sure that they did.

Gisela was taken to hospital by a neighbour, where she had stitches in her head wound.

When she returned home, she texted Nick to indicate that he should stay away until he had cooled down and that she and the twins would be staying in 12 Dene Avenue.

Nick had texted back "Enough is enough. You knew I didn't want to be a dad again. Too old. You wanted the twins. Find your own home. I will not be kept out of my house. Sort it, or else I will."

And he followed up with several increasingly angry and threatening texts. In the texts he indicated that he had arranged to stay in London for a couple of days but would return to "sort things out and get my house back."

Gisela has become increasingly frightened by Nick's behaviour and its possible impact on her and the twins. She has arranged for a locksmith to change the locks but is concerned about the safety of herself and the twins, and about their future. She has no income of her own and no family in this country, while Nick is earning a significant salary and is awarded generous annual bonuses.

End of the case study materials

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