

2nd Edition

# A practical approach to

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# FAMILY LAW

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Jill Black & Jane Bridge

# *A Practical Approach to Family Law*

*Second Edition*

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## *Preface*

It has been my task to edit this book and bring it up to date, although Jill Black has maintained an overview of its progress and content. I hope that whilst inserting new material I have managed to retain the clarity and practicality of approach achieved by Jill in the first edition.

The Children Bill currently before Parliament will prove to be a landmark in the development of the law relating to children in family, matrimonial and care proceedings. I have endeavoured to point out the likely effects of the Bill upon the law at relevant intervals throughout the book. It should be borne in mind that once the Children Act 1989 has received its Royal Assent it will not actually come into force for some twelve to eighteen months thereafter. Thus it will not have any immediate effect upon the present law. For a full picture of the changes to be brought about the reader should refer to Blackstone's Guide to the Children Act 1989.

The Legal Aid Act 1988 has come into effect and transfers the administration of legal aid from the Law Society to the Legal Aid Board. A number of new regulations have been made in its wake.

The Family Law Act 1986 is now almost entirely in force. It makes relatively few alterations to substantive family law, and is mainly a private international law measure laying down a new statutory code for the recognition and enforcement by courts within the United Kingdom of custody orders and foreign divorces, annulments and judicial separations.

The Family Law Reform Act 1987 is now mostly in force and brings the law in relation to illegitimate children more into line with that relating to legitimate children.

I would like, in particular, to thank Mrs Mavis Pilkington and Mrs Margaret Richards for their invaluable assistance with the chapters on taxation and welfare law respectively. Finally, I would extend thanks to my husband Stuart for his enormous assistance, patience and support throughout the preparation of this second edition.

The Green Form and Key Card has been reproduced by courtesy of the Legal Aid Board.

I have attempted to state the law as at July 1989.

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## *Preface to the First Edition*

The student preparing for the Law Society's final examinations is faced with a mammoth task. In the course of one year, he is expected to leave behind the academic approach to law and get to grips with what really happens in practice. How is he to do this when he may never even have been inside a solicitor's office and has no idea what is meant by 'filing', 'service' or 'the green form', let alone how to draft a divorce petition or what to do when a client needs an injunction in an emergency?

This book aims to provide a clear picture of the workings of those aspects of matrimonial law that are most likely to concern not only the student but also the practitioner. It is hoped that sufficient information has been provided, in the text and in the numerous examples, to enable the reader to deal confidently with most matrimonial problems on paper in his final examination or in practice.

Obviously, in writing this book I have had to draw to a large extent on my own experience in practice. However, practice and procedure in matrimonial cases does vary in different parts of the country and the reader should not be surprised if he finds that one or two things are done slightly differently in his local court.

I would like to thank my family, colleagues and friends all of whom have endured the writing of this book with me and assisted in every way they could. I am also most grateful to the many other people who have given me the benefit of their valuable experience in the matrimonial field.

I should like to acknowledge the kind permission given by the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Law Society to reproduce certain documents.

I have endeavoured to state the law as at November 1985.

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