

One in 10 couples who split over the age of 50 use property wealth to fund the cost of divorce

- Property is the priority asset up for discussion at the point of divorce for over 50s (60%)
- Many will buy their partner out using savings (18%), but one in 20 couples are turning to equity release to stay in their homes
- Only 8% take financial advice as part of the separation process

One in 10 (11%) couples who divorce after the age of 50 use money from their property (e.g. from the sale of a family home or equity release) to fund the cost of their divorce, according to new research from L&G¹.

Divorcing couples prioritise property wealth

The research, which explored the financial impact of divorce in later-life, also revealed that property wealth is the most important consideration for most couples at the point of divorce. For many over 50s, property wealth is their most significant financial asset, with people over 55 holding the majority of housing wealth in the UK, totalling more than £3.5 trillion in property assets alone².

Three fifths of all people who divorce over 50 (60%) will discuss the value of their joint home as they prepare to separate.

Dividing the assets

Many over 50s will buy their partner out using savings (18%), with one in 20 couples turning to equity release to stay in their homes. Homeowners in England and Wales could release an average of £69,600 from their homes using equity release; an increase of 20% in just five years³.

Despite the complexity of dividing finances, only 8% take financial advice about their separation.

Lorna Shah, Managing Director, Retail Retirement, L&G: “For many couples over 50, their home holds huge sentimental value, as well as being one of the most significant financial assets they jointly own. It’s therefore not surprising that property is the priority during discussions for over half of divorcing couples.

“What is surprising is that only 8% take financial advice at such a complicated and emotionally charged point in their lives. This is particularly important for couples aged over 50 as the decisions made can have significant consequences on their retirement plans. It’s best to ensure they’ve explored all of the options available to them and chose those that best suit their individual circumstances.”

You can find L&G’s adviser guide to divorce [here](#) and our financial health check for anyone going through a separation [here](#).

¹Opinium Research conducted 2,945 online interviews of UK adults who are divorced. The research was conducted between the 25 October and 12 November 2024

²Office for National Statistics, [Household net property wealth by household representative person \(HRP\) age band: Great Britain, April 2016 to March 2020](#), January 2022 (most recently available)

³Legal & General analysis of Office for National Statistics, [Median house prices for administrative geographies](#), September 2024

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Notes to editors

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