



SW Private Client

We are recognised as having one of the leading matrimonial and family law practices in Hong Kong. Our reputation is based on our expertise in dealing with all aspects of contentious and non-contentious family matters including the preparation of pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements, conducting cases concerning custody and maintenance of children, financial disputes between divorcing couples and third parties, cross border and jurisdiction and forum disputes, abduction of children (under the Hague Convention) and application for registration and mutual recognition of family judgments between mainland and Hong Kong. Additionally, former members of this firm have been family court judges in Hong Kong, one of whom is a judge of the Court of First Instance.

Our specialist team on family wealth and succession planning has expertise and abundant experience in providing practical advice and solutions to private clients of different backgrounds, including entrepreneurs, executives, expatriates and high net worth individuals in wealth succession, asset preservation, trust and estate planning. The team also handles applications for grant of representation for estates involving assets in Hong Kong and multiple jurisdictions.

With the aging population in Hong Kong and the increase in rates of dementia and special needs persons, we have gained specialized in-depth experience in preparing complicated Enduring Powers of Attorney and handling cases on Committee work for mentally incapacitated persons ("MIP"). We assist applicants in making applications to the Court for the appointment of Committees as well as advising Committees on different aspects under the Mental Health Ordinance, Cap. 136 of the Laws of Hong Kong ("MHO").

We also have a family mediators amongst our team members who regularly conduct mediations for a variety of family issues with notable success rates. We are also dedicated to the use of alternative dispute resolution, providing a timely and flexible means to resolve a variety of disputes by helping parties to reach a mutually agreed settlement.

Family practice

- › child abduction cases under the Hague Convention
- › children matters (e.g. relocation, wardship, adoption)
- › claims under the Guardianship of Minors Ordinance (Cap. 13)
- › claims under Mainland Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases (Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement) Ordinance (Cap. 639)
- › dependant claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Ordinance (Cap. 481)
- › divorce, including custody matters and financial claims
- › emergency applications (e.g. injunction, non-removal, protection against domestic violence)
- › expert opinion on Hong Kong family law
- › family mediation
- › part IIA application under the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance (Cap. 192) in cases of foreign divorces
- › pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements
- › third party intervener claims

Wills, probate and succession planning, trust advisory and wealth planning

- › administrative proceedings
- › advising executors, trustees and beneficiaries
- › contentious, and non-contentious domestic and cross-border (PRC and overseas) succession work (probate and letters of administration) and estate administration
- › Wills and enduring powers of attorney
- › trust - setting up & trust advisory
- › incidental advisory work, including preparation of deed polls, re-organization of assets for wealth planning and family arrangements

Committee Work for MIPs

- › advisory work to Committees
- › conducting family meetings and mediation work in respect of disputes arising from MHO
- › emergency applications under MHO
- › managing financial assets of MIPs in Hong Kong and overseas
- › part II applications to the High Court under MHO
- › preparation of annual accounts for submission to court

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