

International Comparative Legal Guides

Family Law 2027

A practical cross-border resource to inform legal minds

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Expert Analysis Chapter

1

Nuptial Agreements and Negligence: Protecting Your Practice – A Practical Guide for Family Law Practitioners in England & Wales and Hong Kong
Marcus Dearle, Miles Preston

Q&A Chapters

6

Argentina
Micaela Cagnoli & Herberto Antonio Robinson,
McEWAN

17

Armenia
Sofya Kharatyan, Concern Dialog

25

Belgium
Larissa De Wulf & Carolyn Vanthienen, Tiberghien

33

Canada
Max Blitt KC, Spier Harben Barristers & Solicitors

38

Israel
Jay Hait, Hait Family Law

45

Italy
Maria Ludovica (Vicky) de' Sanna,
BSVA Studio Legale Associato

53

Japan
Eriko Matsuno, Tokyo J Law Office

63

Mexico
Alfonso Sepúlveda Garcia & Habib Díaz Noriega,
SEPLAW | Sepúlveda y Díaz Noriega, S.C.

71

Poland
Katarzyna Lewicka-Krzysztofczyk,
L. Zielonka i Wspólnicy

80

Romania
Christiana Mondea,
Moga & Mondea – Attorneys at Law

89

Serbia
Predrag Popović, Popović Legal

97

Sweden
Lina Kittl & Ibige Dahlberg Kang,
Lebenberg Advokatbyrå AB

104

Switzerland
Josef Alkatout, Alkatout Legal

111

Tunisia
Dr. Brahim Latrech, Dr. Brahim LATRECH Law Office

117

United Arab Emirates
Awatif Al Khouri, Awatif Mohammad Shoqi
Advocates & Legal Consultancy

125

USA – California
Steven K. Yoda, Walzer Melcher & Yoda LLP

132

USA – Florida
Evan R. Marks & Carolyn W. West,
Marks & West, P.A.

139

USA – New York
Gretchen Beall Schumann, Schumann Law LLC

Armenia

Concern Dialog



Sofya Kharatyan

1 Divorce

1.1 What are the grounds of jurisdiction for divorce proceedings? For example, residence, nationality, domicile, etc.?

According to general rules, Armenian citizens (Armenian nationals) are entitled to initiate divorce proceedings in Armenian courts, including cases where the marriage was registered under a foreign jurisdiction. If at least one spouse is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, the divorce case may be initiated and resolved in Armenian courts.

Divorce cases involving Armenian citizens and foreign citizens or stateless persons, where the spouses reside in the Republic of Armenia, fall exclusively under the jurisdiction of Armenian courts.

Under Article 346(6) of the Civil Procedural Code (hereinafter the “Code”), the foreign judicial act regarding divorce is recognised in Armenia based on the Armenian court decision without international or bilateral treaties or reciprocity. Based on the treaties, the foreign court decision about divorce may be recognised in Armenia without special proceedings as well.

1.2 What are the grounds for a divorce? For example, is there a required period of separation; can the parties have an uncontested divorce?

There are two main procedures for divorce in the Republic of Armenia.

If both spouses mutually consent to the divorce, it may be carried out “out-of-judicially”, i.e., through the Civil Status Registration Departments of the Ministry of Justice of Armenia (hereinafter the “CSRD”), according to Article 15 of the Family Code of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter the “Family Code”).

The spouses should submit a joint application for divorce, and after the expiration of a mandatory waiting period (no less than one month and no more than three months), they must reaffirm their intention by submitting a second application. Upon submission of this second application, the divorce will be officially registered. Additionally, for an extra fee, the spouses may receive the divorce certificate within a few hours following the submission of the joint application.

The CSRD shall register a divorce based on the application of one spouse alone if the second spouse is:

- recognised as missing or incapable by the court; or
- convicted to imprisonment for a period of no less than three years.

Disputes other than divorce itself may be subject to settlement by the court even if the divorce proceeding took place in the CSRD. It should be noted that the divorce can be made via the CSRD if the marriage is registered in Armenia or, in cases based on an international or bilateral treaty, the CSRD is entitled to official inquiry and confirmation from the foreign state that the marriage was made and is valid therein.

The divorce may be realised by judicial procedure if:

- there is no agreement to the divorce by one of the spouses;
- despite the absence of reservations against divorce, one of the spouses avoids the divorce’s realisation in the CSRD; or
- the spouses wish to divorce by judicial procedure by mutual consent.

From July 1, 2025, mediation prior to the initiation action in the court for divorce becomes mandatory in Armenia.

No Armenian authorities are entitled to consider the grounds of divorce.

1.3 In the case of an uncontested divorce, do the parties need to attend court and is it possible to have a “private” divorce, i.e. without any court involvement?

It should be noted that information from the CSRD is personal data that can be provided only based on the data subject’s explicit consent. Thus, “out-of-judicial” divorce is a “private” divorce without any court involvement. Also, the mediation is classified as a private and closed proceeding subject to confidentiality.

Should the court hear a case related to the participants’ privacy, the sessions may be closed-door if the parties request this of the court.

According to the general procedural rules defined in the Code, the parties’ presence in the court hearings is not mandatory and can be provided through a representative. It is important to note that the court shall leave the claim (including divorce claim) without consideration at any stage if the notified claimant or representative fails to appear at two consecutive court sessions and has not filed a motion to postpone the examination of the case or on resolving the case in the claimant’s absence, provided that the respondent has not filed a motion on proceeding with the examination of the case. In cases other than those presented in this chapter, any case may be heard in the absence of any party if the latter is notified properly.

1.4 What is the procedure and timescale for a divorce?

The procedure and timescale for “out-of-judicial” divorce is presented in question 1.2.

For initiation of the mediation prior to the divorce, the spouses should submit a joint or separate application on appointment of a mediator. The selection of the mediator and implementation of the mediation process will follow. There is no time limit for the mediation process defined under the law. Instead, the termination of the mediation process links to the occurrence of circumstances defined under the law.

The procedure for judicial divorce is as follows:

- presenting the claim on divorce before the first instance court;
- accepting the claim to the hearings;
- hearing sessions and decision-making; and
- appeal to the Appeal Civil Court and afterwards, the Cassation Court (at the discretion of the parties).

If the claim presented is only about the divorce, the timescale for divorce in court is from six to nine months; if there are other claims presented along with the divorce, the case may be completed in two to three years.

1.5 Can a divorce be finalised without resolving other associated matters? For example, children and finances.

Yes, divorce can be finalised without resolving other associated matters such as common property, child's place of living, visitation schedule, alimony, etc.

1.6 Are foreign divorces recognised in your jurisdiction? If so, what are the procedural requirements, if any?

According to Article 145 of the Family Code:

- divorces between Armenian nationals and foreign nationals or stateless persons concluded out of the territory of Armenia are valid in Armenia in case of consular legalisation; and
- divorces between foreign citizens concluded out of the territory of Armenia are valid in Armenia in case of consular legalisation.

The following rules concern divorces concluded out-of-judicially. Under Article 346(6) of the Code, the following are subject to recognition by Armenian courts:

- foreign judicial acts on divorce between foreign citizens or on declaring the marriage as invalid; and
- foreign judicial acts on divorce between Armenian nationals or between Armenian nationals and foreign nationals or stateless persons or on declaring a marriage as invalid (see also question 1.1).

1.7 Does your jurisdiction allow separation or nullity proceedings?

The concept of "separation" is not implemented in Armenian legislation.

The court may consider a marriage invalid if it was entered into in violation of any of the following legal restrictions:

- the age of the spouses should be no less than 18;
- none of the spouses should be in another marriage, registered by the procedure established by the law;
- the spouses should not be immediate relatives (parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, as well as siblings and siblings with a common mother or father, or common aunts, uncles and cousins);
- the spouses should not be adopters and adopted;

- none of the spouses should be recognised as incapable by the court; and
- none of spouses should conceal that they have a sex virus, including HIV/AIDS, or a drug or toxic addiction, from the other while registering a marriage in the CSRD.

The marriage can be recognised as null and void if the spouses, or one of them, has registered the marriage without an intention to make a family (false marriage).

1.8 Can divorce proceedings be stayed if there are proceedings in another country?

Based on the rule defined in the Code, the Armenian court shall leave the claim on divorce without consideration when:

- the foreign state court has accepted the divorce claim for examination; and
- the foreign state court has delivered a judgment with respect to the divorce case.

The mandatory condition for Armenian courts to leave the claim without consideration is that a dispute should be between the same persons, on the same subject matter and on the same factual grounds.

2 Finances on Divorce

2.1 What financial orders can the court make on divorce?

Under Armenian law, the following financial types of claims may be submitted to the court alongside a divorce claim:

- Child support (alimony) claims.
- Spousal support (alimony) claims provided the requesting spouse qualifies under the law.

It is also worth noting that the following types of claims may also be submitted to the court for examination with a divorce claim:

- Custody of the child(ren), (child living place, including determining with which parent the child will reside).
- Division of jointly owned property.
- Determination of a visitation schedule with the child(ren).

The court is authorised to examine any of these claims if a corresponding claim is filed.

2.2 Do matrimonial regimes exist and do they need to be addressed by the court on divorce? Is there a default matrimonial regime?

The matrimonial regime is regulated under the Family Code and the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter the "Civil Code").

According to the general rule, the property acquired by spouses during marriage is their joint ownership (the portions are considered equal and non-divided), unless otherwise provided for by law or by an agreement between them. The spouses may conclude marital agreement and define the matrimonial regime other than those presented in the law during marriage and in case of divorce.

Meanwhile, the following are exceptions to the stated general rule:

- personal use property (clothing, footwear, etc.), except for jewellery and luxury items, which is the ownership of the spouse who has use that property;
- donated or inherited property; and

- the property received by one of the spouses as a gift or succession in the course of marriage shall be his or her ownership.

The property of each spouse may be recognised as their joint ownership where it is established that contributions at the expense of common property or personal property of the other spouse have been made in the course of marriage, which have significantly increased the value of that property (capital repair, reconstruction, re-equipment, etc.), unless otherwise provided for by an agreement concluded between the spouses.

It is worth noting that the Court of Cassation of the Republic of Armenia recently issued a decision addressing the relevant regulations. The Court clarified that the transformation of one asset into another (such as converting personal property into money, or using it to acquire a vehicle or real estate) does not change the nature of ownership, provided that the original asset was the personal property of one spouse. In such cases, the newly acquired asset will also remain the personal property of that spouse.

2.3 How does the court decide what financial orders to make? What factors are taken into account?

Please see question 2.1.

Alimony for children in accordance with the Family Code, alimony for the child(ren) may be determined by the court as a percentage of income, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. In all cases, the amount is set monthly. The court must decide in accordance with Articles 68–74 of the Family Code. The court may consider the minimum amount established by law, the financial capacities of the parents (including income and assets), the family status of the parent(s), the best interests of the child, and any other relevant factors the court deems important.

Division of common property: the court shall base its decision on the marital agreement, if one exists. If there is no marital agreement, as a matter of general rule the court will refer to Article 201 of the Civil Code to identify jointly owned property (please see also question 2.2) and divide it equally between the former spouses.

Spousal maintenance (alimony from the ex-spouse): the court decides on spousal maintenance in accordance with Articles 78–80 of the Family Code, which outline the conditions under which such maintenance may be claimed. The court will take into account the financial and family circumstances of the spouses, as well as any other factors it deems relevant.

2.4 Is the position different between capital and maintenance orders? If so, how?

As has been mentioned above, alimony for the child(ren) may be determined by the court as a percentage of income, a fixed amount, or a combination of both. In all cases, the amount is set monthly.

According to the Family Code, spouses are obligated to provide financial support to each other. If such support is refused, and there is no mutual agreement on alimony, the following persons have the right to require alimony from the spouse by judicial procedure:

- a vulnerable, financially dependent spouse;
- a wife during pregnancy, as well as the spouse taking care of a common child until the child turns three years old; and
- a vulnerable spouse caring for a common child disabled from childhood or a disabled adult child of the first group of disability.

The following persons also have the right to seek alimony from the financially able ex-spouse:

- a vulnerable ex-spouse responsible for the care of a common disabled child from childhood or a disabled child of the first group of disability;
- an ex-wife during pregnancy, as well as the spouse taking care of a common child until the child turns three years old; and
- a vulnerable ex-spouse who became disabled either before the divorce or within one year after the divorce.

This right extends to cases where the requesting ex-spouse reaches retirement age within five years of the divorce, provided the spouses were married for 15 years or more.

2.5 If a couple agrees on financial matters, do they need to have a court order and attend court?

Spouses can settle financial and property disputes between themselves either by a mutually concluded agreement (also a settlement agreement approved by a licensed mediator) or through judicial procedure. An agreement between spouses on financial matters concluded in the form prescribed by law is valid and enforceable, even in the absence of a court order or the parties' appearance before the court.

Such an agreement may be executed in simple written form and notarised or approved by a licensed mediator. If there is a signed and notarised agreement between the spouses regarding their financial matters, then in case of non-fulfilment of any of the terms of the agreement, the other party has the right to apply to the notary to issue a writ of execution if such a possibility is included in this agreement. To ensure compulsory enforcement of an agreement approved by a licensed mediator, it must be approved by a court.

2.6 How long can spousal maintenance orders last and are such orders commonplace?

Spousal maintenance orders remain in effect either if the grounds for providing maintenance continue to exist (see also question 2.4), or until the court releases the obligated spouse – either permanently or temporarily – from the duty to pay. The court may release a spouse from the obligation to pay maintenance if the spouse in need of support becomes incapable due to:

- excessive use of alcohol, drugs, or toxic substances, or due to the commission of an intentional crime;
- a marriage that lasted less than one year; or
- immoral behaviour by the spouse requesting alimony (such as unfaithfulness, gambling, etc.).

However, there are very few cases involving alimony from ex-spouses in Armenia.

2.7 Is the concept of matrimonial property recognised in your jurisdiction?

The concept of matrimonial property is recognised under Armenian law and is described in detail in question 2.2.

2.8 Do the courts treat foreign nationals differently on divorce? If so, what are the rules on applicable law? Can the court make orders applying foreign law rather than the law of the jurisdiction?

The Constitution of Armenia prohibits any kind of discrimination; therefore, the scope of rights and obligations are the same

for both nationals and foreigners, including in the divorce proceedings. The court may decide by applying foreign law based on the conflict of law rules, in particular Articles 146, 151 and 152 of the Family Code. However, the norms of foreign family law shall not be applied if such application contradicts the law and order (public order) of the Republic of Armenia.

2.9 How is the matrimonial home treated on divorce?

Armenian law does not use the term “matrimonial home” and thus there are no special rules as regard that particular asset.

2.10 Is the concept of “trusts” recognised in your jurisdiction? If so, how?

This is not applicable in the Armenian jurisdiction.

2.11 Can financial claims be made following a foreign divorce in your jurisdiction? If so, what are the grounds?

Financial claims can be made in Armenia following a foreign divorce in case Armenian courts have jurisdiction over the dispute. Such cases are as follows:

- the respondent is an Armenian national;
- the respondent is a foreign national who resides in the territory of Armenia at the time of filing a claim; or
- the respondent is a foreign national has a property in Armenia.

2.12 What methods of dispute resolution are available to resolve financial settlement on divorce, e.g. court, mediation, arbitration?

The dispute resolution methods available in Armenia as are follows:

- the courts of general jurisdiction;
- mediation in and out of judicial proceedings; and
- arbitration, but only for cases on division of jointly owned property.

3 Marital Agreements

3.1 Are marital agreements (pre- and post-marriage) enforceable? Is the position the same if the agreement is a foreign agreement?

Marital agreements are regulated under Articles 27–31 and 146 of the Family Code. Such an agreement may be concluded either before marriage or at any time during the marriage. It governs the property rights and obligations of spouses during marriage and/or in the event of divorce. To be valid and enforceable, the agreement must be notarised.

A foreign marital agreement will be recognised as valid and enforceable in Armenia if it complies with the conflict of law rules established under Armenian legislation.

3.2 What are the procedural requirements for a marital agreement to be enforceable on divorce?

The marital agreement must be notarised and may only address the property rights and obligations of the spouses.

3.3 Can marital agreements cover a spouse's financial claims on divorce, e.g. for maintenance or compensation, or are they limited to the election of the matrimonial property regime? Can they deal with financial claims regarding children, e.g. child maintenance?

The marital agreement may cover all types of property rights and obligations, including provisions for spousal alimony or compensation, as well as rules governing the matrimonial property regime. However, it should be noted that child alimony is not subject to regulation under a marital agreement and must be addressed through separate legal arrangements, which also must be notarised.

4 Cohabitation and the Unmarried Family

4.1 Do cohabitants, who do not have children, have financial claims if the couple separate? What are the grounds to make a financial claim?

Only marriages registered in the civil acts registration services are recognised in the Republic of Armenia, and persons in an unregistered marriage do not have any legal protection as spouses. There is no separate legal regulation governing cohabitation in Armenia. As a result, cohabitants are not entitled to any financial claims solely based on the fact of their cohabitation.

4.2 What financial orders can a cohabitant obtain?

This is not applicable under Armenian jurisdiction.

4.3 Is there a formal partnership status for cohabitants (for example, civil partnerships, PACS)?

In the Republic of Armenia, marriage is the only legally recognised form of formal partnership. Under Armenian law, marriage is defined as the union of a man and a woman of marriageable age who freely express their will to marry and create a family. Only marriages registered with the civil acts registration services in accordance with the procedure established by Republic of Armenia legislation are recognised as valid.

There is no legal recognition or formal status for cohabitation, civil partnerships, or other forms of partnership outside registered marriage. As such, cohabitants are not granted legal rights or obligations based solely on their relationship.

4.4 Are same-sex couples permitted to marry or enter other formal relationships in your jurisdiction?

Under the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, only marriage between a man and a woman is legally recognised.

5 Child Maintenance

5.1 What financial claims are available to parents on behalf of children within or outside of marriage?

Each parent has a duty to participate in the needs of their children proportionally to their resources. Regardless of the parents' marriage, the parent with whom the child lives has the right to request alimony from the other parent.

5.2 How is child maintenance calculated and is it administered by the court or an agency?

Parents can decide the amount of child support by notarised agreement. In case of the absence of an alimony-paying agreement between parents, it is determined by the court at the rate of:

- ¼ of the parent's income for one child;
- ⅓ of the parent's income for two children; and
- ½ of the parent's income for three or more children.

The amount of alimony is determined by court from the maximal possibility of keeping the previous standard of living of the child, taking into consideration property and family status of the parties and interests deserving attention. The level of child support given may be decreased or increased by the court depending on the family and financial circumstances.

5.3 For how long is a parent required to pay child maintenance or provide financial support for their children? For example, can a child seek maintenance during university?

According to Armenian law, parents are obligated to provide maintenance (alimony) for their child. A child is also entitled to receive alimony after turning 18 if he or she is incapable of supporting themselves due to health or other valid reasons.

5.4 Can capital or property orders be made to or for the benefit of a child?

Under Armenian law, courts cannot issue capital or property orders in favour of children; such arrangements can only be made through mutual agreement between the parents.

5.5 Can a child or adult make a financial claim directly against their parents? If so, what factors will the court take into account?

The claim on payment alimony for a child (as defined by Armenian law – please see question 6.2) is presented on behalf of the parent/guardian with whom the child lives permanently.

If the child is 18 years old, he/she may present the claim on his/her name except for cases where their incapacity relates to mental disability and the claim should be presented on the name of assigned guardian (can be the second parent).

6 Children – Parental Responsibility and Custody

6.1 Explain what rights of custody both parents have in your jurisdiction whether (a) married, or (b) unmarried.

Under Armenian law and legal practice, both parents have equal custody rights and obligations toward their child(ren). Therefore, custody disputes typically focus on determining the child(ren)'s permanent place of residence rather than custody itself. The parental rights and responsibilities are the same regardless of whether the child was born within or outside of marriage. When custody is established through a court decision or registration with the CSRD, the legal parentage of the child is officially confirmed.

6.2 At what age are children considered adults by the court?

The child is a natural person until the age of 18 except in cases of gaining full legal capacity earlier under the law. A minor who has attained the age of 16 years may be declared to have full legal capacity (emancipated) if he or she is employed under an employment contract or, with the consent of his or her parents, adoptive parents, or guardian, engages in entrepreneurial activities.

The declaration of a minor as having full legal capacity (emancipation) shall be effected by a decision of the guardianship and trusteeship authority with the consent of the minor's parents, adoptive parents, or guardian. In the absence of such consent, the minor may be declared to have full legal capacity (emancipated) by a court decision.

6.3 What is the duration of children orders (up to the age of 16 or 18 or otherwise)?

A child-related court order remains in effect until the child turns 18 years old or is emancipated by a court decision.

6.4 What orders can the court make in relation to children? Does the court automatically make orders in relation to child arrangements in the event of divorce?

To make an order about the child, the court should have a relevant claim on it. The claims may be presented and therefore examined and ordered in relation to the child(ren) as follows (the common ones):

- with which parent the child(ren) should live permanently;
- how much alimony should be paid for the child(ren);
- how much child support should be paid in addition to the alimony;
- the meeting schedule with the parent who lives separately from the child(ren);
- the meeting schedule with other immediate relatives, e.g. grandparents;
- the restriction of parental rights; and
- the deprivation of parental rights.

6.5 What factors does the court consider when making orders in relation to children?

The basic factor taken into consideration while deciding about the child(ren) is the best interest of the child. The content of the child's best interest is based on the criteria defined in the law and court practice as well as the ECHR's decisions.

6.6 Without court orders, what can parents do unilaterally? For example, can they take a child abroad?

Theoretically and due to law, the parents should decide on issues related to the common child(ren) jointly. In practice, most decisions are made by the parent with whom the child(ren) permanently live. Armenian law allows them to cross the border with one parent without consent of the second. The consent of the second parent for crossing the border is required in the case when and if it is required under the law of the foreign country.

6.7 Is there a presumption of an equal division of time between separating or divorcing parents?

There is no presumption of an equal division of time between separating and divorcing parents under Armenian law, except for the weekends, which shall be equally shared between parents based on the court practice.

6.8 Are unmarried parents treated in the same way as married parents when the court makes orders on separation or divorce?

Please see question 6.1.

6.9 Is a welfare report prepared by an independent professional or is the decision taken by the judge alone? If so, does the child meet the judge?

An independent professional's report is considered evidence on equal footing with other materials presented to the court. However, under Armenian law, it is mandatory to obtain a report from the Commission of Custody and Guardianship.

Both the Commission and the court are required to hear the views of children aged 10 and older. Children under the age of 10 should also be heard on matters concerning them, taking into account their age and level of maturity.

For children aged 10 and above, decisions must be made with their consent.

6.10 Is there separate representation for children in your jurisdiction and, if so, who would represent them, e.g. a lawyer?

There is no separate representation for children in Armenia. If the case is about protection from abuse of a child against his/her parents (lawful representatives), the Commission of Custody and Guardianship should undertake necessary means for the protection of a child's rights and interests.

6.11 Do any other adults have a say in relation to the arrangements for the children, e.g. step-parents or grandparents or siblings? What methods of dispute resolution are available to resolve disputes relating to children?

In relation to the arrangements for the child(ren), only parents have a right to say.

Disputes related to children are subject to a mandatory mediation process prior to initiation of any court proceedings. If the mediation process fails, the disputes can be resolved in court. The parties may reconcile during the court proceedings as well.

7 Children – International Aspects

7.1 Can the custodial parent move to another state/country without the other parent's consent?

The parent with whom the child permanently lives is entitled to move to another state or country without the other parent's consent. However, the legislation of the other state or country may prohibit the child's entry without the consent of the second parent.

7.2 Can the custodial parent move to another part of the state/country without the other parent's consent?

The parent with whom the child permanently lives is entitled to move to another part of the country without the other parent's consent.

7.3 If the court is making a decision on relocation of a child abroad, what factors are taken into account?

As far as Armenian courts have jurisdiction over the territory of Armenia, they do not decide on the determination of a child's place of living outside of Armenia. The Armenian court may decide with which parent the child should live permanently and may oblige the second parent to give consent to the child's travelling abroad or consent on living abroad. In deciding, the court derives from the child's best interest.

7.4 If the court is making a decision on a child moving to a different part of the state/country, what factors are taken into account?

This is not applicable in the Armenian jurisdiction.

7.5 In practice, how rare is it for the custodial parent to be allowed to relocate internationally/interstate?

Please see question 7.3. The court does not allow the relocation of the child from Armenia permanently as such. There are cases when the court allows temporary relocation, e.g. for medical reasons, or when the court approves the reconciliation agreement of parties on relocation of the child abroad.

7.6 How does your jurisdiction deal with abduction cases? For example, is your jurisdiction a party to the Hague Convention?

Armenia has been a Member State of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction since June 1, 2007 (with accession accepted by more than 60 countries) and has implemented all necessary internal procedures required under the Convention.

8 Overview

8.1 In your view, what are the significant developments in family law in your jurisdiction in the last two years and anticipated in the next year?

On July 1, 2024, the Law on Amendments and Additions to the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence, Protection of Persons Subjected to Domestic Violence, and Restoration of Family Harmony entered into force. This law introduced significant changes and additions, more clearly defining the types of violence, the concept of family members, the decisions to be made by competent authorities in cases of violence, and the procedure for appealing those decisions.

Starting from July 1, 2025, in Armenia, mediation has become mandatory before filing a court case in several family-related matters, including divorce, determination of the child's place of living, visitation, enforcement of alimony (maintenance payments), and division of property considered common ownership of spouses.

Within the first year following the implementation of mandatory mediation, a total of 1,557 cases were referred to mediation. Of these, 373 were successfully resolved through settlement, while 234 remain pending. As a result, the number of family law cases filed with the courts decreased by approximately 25% during the first year of the mandatory mediation regime.

8.2 To what extent and how has the court process and other dispute resolution methods for family law been adapted in your jurisdiction in light of the COVID-19 pandemic – e.g. virtual hearings, remote access, paperless processes? Are any of these changes likely to remain now the COVID-19 crisis has passed?

While the COVID-19 pandemic has not had a significant impact on family law cases in our jurisdiction, i.e. no court processes or other dispute resolution methods for family law have been adapted, certain temporary changes have been adopted for all types of litigation. Electronic filing of documents was allowed for a certain period of time, court hearings in the first instance court were postponed; meanwhile, due to the COVID-19

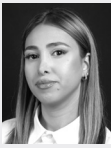
pandemic, the Appeal Court has begun to exercise its authority to hear appeals in writing, without convening a court hearing.

8.3 What are some of the areas of family law that you think should be considered in your jurisdiction, i.e. what laws or practices should be reformed?

The priority is the improvement of the Commission of Custody and Guardianship, especially the professional level of specialists directly engaging in work with minors.

The mediators to be engaged for family disputes should be subject to additional professional requirements. Currently, most licensed mediators are lawyers and attorneys; however, dealing with the family law matters may require other types of knowledge apart from legal which are not addressed yet.

It would be preferable to consider the necessity of having judges or court specialists on family cases, which will allow for the increase in the engagement of the judges and knowledge as regards the peculiarities of assessing the child's best interest.



Sofya Kharatyan heads the family law practice. She provides counselling on marital and family matters, acts as a representative in the mediation stage of family disputes, and represents guardianship and trusteeship bodies in courts. Additionally, she provides consultation and representation in initiating and ongoing cases under the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Sofya Kharatyan is also actively involved in other civil litigations. She has been a licensed attorney since 2019 and joined the Concern Dialog team in 2020.

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Concern Dialog is a top-tier, full-service law firm headquartered in Yerevan, Armenia. We have established ourselves as a reliable partner for businesses and individuals seeking legal counsel and representation since 1998. Our team is well-respected for our work in the areas of corporate law, labour law, competition law, tax law, contract law, family law (including child abduction cases) and regulatory issues. Specifically, we have extensive experience in regulatory matters in technology, media, and telecommunications (TMT), mining, energy, utilities, banking and finance, medical services, real estate, and not-for-profit sectors.

In addition to our outstanding consulting and transaction practice, our litigation practice is regarded as one of the leading ones in Armenia for landmark litigation and arbitration cases.

And finally, our criminal defence team is entrusted with defending clients in numerous high-level, complex criminal cases, engaging criminal, constitutional and international human rights issues, including several politically motivated proceedings and complex white-collar crime charges.

The team stands out as one of the very few in the country capable of effectively assisting clients in English, Russian, French, and, to a limited extent, German. Reputable international ranking providers regularly recognise our work: Concern Dialog and our team members are identified as "top tier" by *Chambers and Partners*, *The Legal 500*, *IFLR1000*, *Pravo.ru-300 International*, and *Who's Who Legal*. *Top Ranked Legal* has recognised Concern Dialog as the law firm of the year 2022 for Armenia.

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