

ABSTRACT

ARBITRATION IN FAMILY LAW: A PRIVATE APPROACH TO RESOLVING DOMESTIC DISPUTES

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It might be the case that the moment for matrimonial law arbitration has come. The practice of arbitration as a means of resolving disputes dates back hundreds, if not thousands of years. Significant support for arbitration in the United States entered the world in the middle of the 1920s when the Federal Arbitration Act was passed. Agreements to arbitrate became enforceable in our courts thanks to that act. Arbitration has mostly been employed in labor and commercial law throughout the past century, and both fields have produced an enormous body of case law. We have the Uniform Arbitration Act (UAA) from 1956 and the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act (RUAA) from 2000, both from the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws. Family arbitration is a type of private dispute settlement in which the parties sign a contract designating a suitably competent individual (referred to as a "arbitrator") to hear arguments and provide a decision. It can be applied to address disagreements with money and children. Therefore, family arbitration is similar to court processes in that the family arbitrator will render a ruling upon consideration of the evidence and the respective arguments made by each party. The decision is known as an award in financial cases and a determination in instances involving children. A number of judicial and extrajudicial announcements have validated the plan as a form of conflict resolution, most notably in the Court of Appeal in the case of *Haley v. Haley* [2020] EWCA.