

# Family Law

## First Consultation

We can offer a first face to face consultation. This will give you **30 minutes** of expert advice from our specialist family lawyer to enable you to consider the options available to you moving forward. We offer expert advice on divorce/separation or/and children's matters.

The cost of this meeting is **£50 plus Vat**.

## Divorce costs.

***If you are the Petitioner our costs for acting on your behalf in relation to an undefended divorce*** are as follows:-

**£600.00 plus Vat (£120.00)** plus Court fees of £550.00.

This fee includes:-

Preparing the divorce petition

Preparing the request for directions for trial and supporting documents following receipt of the acknowledgement of service

Forwarding your decree nisi

Applying for the decree absolute and forwarding to you.

In addition to the above, our costs will include up to 2 hours time spent on your file, including attendances upon you, discussions with you by e mail or by telephone.

NOTE. This fee does not include advice given in respect of finances or children's advice or unforeseen costs such as service of papers on spouse, tracing of spouse or translation of marriage certificate will incur additional costs

If you have any questions regarding our fixed fee service or wish to speak to a member of our team please do not hesitate to contact us on 01257 265711

***If you are the Respondent our costs for acting for you in uncontested divorce proceedings are as follows:-***

Our fees for this will be **£300 plus Vat (£60)**.

This fee includes:-

Meeting with you to discuss the divorce petition

Writing on your behalf in relation to any costs claimed against you by the petitioner

Completing the acknowledgement of service form

Advising you of the decree nisi date

Forwarding your decree nisi and the decree absolute

NOTE. This fee does not include advice given in respect of finances or children's advice or unforeseen costs such as service of papers on spouse, tracing of spouse or translation of marriage certificate will incur additional costs

**Financial settlements/Pensions/Property**

Sorting out the financial settlement on divorce is often difficult. Every case is different so it is hard to give an accurate estimate as to fees involved for an individual case. However, we do appreciate that people like to have some certainty about the potential costs involved.

Subject to an assessment of the complexity of your case, we may be able to offer fixed fees for negotiating a financial settlement on your behalf, without the need for a Court application or for the various stages of dealing with the Court application.

The fixed fees will be agreed with you and will be tailored to the particular needs of your case.

If it possible to reach an agreement regarding your property and finances, we can draw up a Consent Order which, if approved by the Court, has the same effect as an order made by the Court following a full hearing. (Usually when a Consent Order is negotiated, documentation is approved by the Court without the need for parties' to attend).

**Court proceedings**

Before commencing Court proceedings, we must refer you to mediation. If the case is not suitable for mediation or mediation is unsuccessful (a fee from the mediation service may be payable) an application to the Court can be made.

A Court application can be broken down into 3 stages:-

- Work up to and including the first Court appointment – First Directions Appointment (FDA)

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- Work up to and including the second Court appointment - Financial Dispute Resolution (FDR)
- Work up to and including a final hearing

We will be prepared to discuss with you a fee for each of these stages.

If your case does not settle at or before the FDR then the case may need to proceed to a final hearing. For this we would normally revert to an hourly rate but once we have a clear understanding of the issues involved, it may be possible to agree a further fixed fee to include work up to and including a final hearing plus the cost of instructing a barrister on your behalf.

Sometimes it is necessary to obtain valuation of property reports from experts and accountants. These fees are payable on top of any fixed fee.

### **Separation agreement**

We can offer a fixed fee on a separation agreement. The fee for this is £700 plus Vat.

This fee includes:-

Meeting with you to discuss the agreement

Advising you on matters to consider before formalising the agreement

Informing you of the financial information required from you

Considering the financial information provided by the other party

Preparing/approving the agreement

Arranging completion of the agreement

\*\* This fee does not apply where there is no agreement at the outset and ongoing negotiation is needed. In this situation we could charge at an hourly rate (£201 per hr) and give you an estimated cost, or we could consider whether an alternative fixed fee arrangement would be suitable for you.\*\*

### **Pre-Nuptial Agreement**

We can offer a fixed fee on a pre-nuptial agreement. The fee for this is £1200 plus Vat

This fee includes:-

Obtaining information from you in order to draft the agreement

Advising you on matters to consider before formalising the agreement

Drafting the agreement

Informing you of the financial information required from you

Arranging completion of the document

\*\* This fee does not apply to negotiations if there is a disagreement or any additional expert reports that may be commissioned. Also, this fee does not apply for agreements where a couple's assets are worth more than £1 million.

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### **Co-habitation Agreement**

We can offer a fixed fee on a co-habitation/living together agreement. The fee for this is £650 plus Vat

This fee includes:-

Meeting with you to discuss details of the proposed agreement

Advising you on matters for your consideration before formalising any agreement

Drafting and amending the agreement

Arranging signature of the agreement by both parties

\*\*this fee does not apply where there is no agreement at the outset and ongoing negotiations are required. In this situation we would charge at an hourly rate and give you an estimated cost up front. \*\*

### **Children**

We are able to offer a fixed fee on the preparation of an application for Children's act proceedings. The fee for this is £700 plus Vat.

This fee includes:-

The preparation of the application for you and the steps up to, but **not** including the first Court hearing.

Up to 2 hours work in taking your instructions, corresponding with your partner (or their solicitor) to negotiate agreement

Drafting the Court application for you

Service upon your partner or their solicitor

Advising you with regard to the first Court appointment.

\*\* If you wish for us to attend the first court appointment with you we are happy to do so, the additional cost for this would be £500 plus Vat for up to ½ day.

This fixed fee does not include any expert reports that may be commissioned. If further Court appointments are necessary we would be happy to discuss our fees with you\*\*

### **Children's act Proceedings (contact/access to children)**

- £215 Court fee to lodge Children's act Application
- £215 Court fee to enforce Court Order

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**Other services**

Change of Name deed - £100 plus Vat

Parental Responsibility Agreement - £190 plus Vat

Preparation of Statutory Declaration or Officially required letter - £120 plus Vat