

**FAMILY LAW FEES** We appreciate how important it is for our clients to have some certainty about how much it will cost to instruct us. We also believe that our client's deserve high quality advice to best protect their interests. We have established our reputation on delivering good value at a fair price, not the cheapest. That is why we have developed a range of fee schemes to suit most pockets

**PUBLIC FUNDING** We have a Civil Contract with the Legal Aid Agency for Family work. As from 1 April 2013 public funding has been withdrawn from most private law family case with the exception of Domestic Violence and Child Abduction. Private family law cases can be brought back within scope of legal aid where there is documented evidence of domestic violence in the previous 2 years provided your case meets the merits test and you meet the means test. To find out if you may qualify call and speak to a member of our family team

**FREE INITIAL HALF HOUR ADVICE** We should in this time be able to provide you with sufficient information to enable you to make an informed decision about how you want to proceed. We will discuss funding your case and the various payment options available

**FIXED FEES** We can offer our normal hourly charging rate or a fixed fee for the following matters:

- As a Petitioner on a straightforward undefended main Divorce, Judicial Separation or Civil Partnership suit:  
**£595** plus VAT. Court fees are payable in addition. The issue fee is £410, including Decree Absolute
- As a Respondent to a Divorce, Judicial Separation or Civil Partnership undefended main suit:  
**£395** plus VAT. No Court fees are payable.
- Pre-nuptial Agreement, Co-habitation Agreement and Separation Agreement, where the main terms have been informally agreed by you:  
**£750** plus VAT
- Financial Consent Order in Divorce Proceedings, following final agreement between you or after successful mediation (not including implementing the terms):  
**£750** plus VAT and Court fee of £45
- Children Act applications:  
Representation at a first appointment or a review hearing - **£595** plus VAT for a morning or an afternoon (includes preparation for hearing and settling order made). Should time at court exceed 3 hours our hourly rate will apply thereafter
- Checking Service. If you want to act in person but want initial advice and help completing your divorce petition or Children Act application or want them checked by us before you issue - **£195** plus VAT

You may be eligible for fee exemption or remission on application to the court depending on your means

If additional or unforeseen work is undertaken, for example, arranging for personal service or applying to amend or supplement a petition, a further charge will be made based on time involved and fees incurred. We will provide you with details of what work is and is not included in a fixed fee

We normally charge on an hourly basis because the amount of work involved can be unpredictable. The hourly rate we charge depends on the level of experience of the solicitor you instruct and a number of factors also determine how much we charge, including the importance or urgency of the matter, the value or complexity of the case.

Our fees do not include any fees or charges payable to third parties, for example court fees, travel expenses or process service

## **WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD YOUR NORMAL HOURLY RATES?**

Well, for those clients on a low income who are not eligible for public funding, we do operate a **'Tailored Fee Scheme'**, which is means assessed by us and may result in a discount of 10%, 20% or 30 % off our normal hourly charges for work that we do not offer under our Fixed Fee Scheme. Please ask us for details.

## **WHAT OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?**

If you want to keep control over your budget, but your case is going to be lengthy or complex we can look at the following options with you:

- Regular monthly standing orders to meet you budget and the work involved
- Credit/Debit card payments
- Periodic billing, usually monthly
- An agreement to meet your costs out of any lump sum you eventually receive
- 'Pay as you go' for advice or help with documents as and when you need it
- One off payment for representing you at a hearing
- Fixed fees for each separate stage of your case, depending on an assessment of its importance and complexity
- A secured loan through a specialist funding provider

Please ask us for details. We offer a free first half hour meeting when we can discuss your case and funding options available

## **WHAT IF I NEED ANY OTHER SERVICES?**

You may be advised to make a Will or need some conveyancing work carried out to implement an agreement or Order. We can provide you with a quote for conveyancing and fixed fee for a straightforward Will. Please return to our website for details or go to [www.challenor-gardiner.co.uk](http://www.challenor-gardiner.co.uk)