

PRICING

We have Legal Aid contracts in Crime, Family and Mental Health law. This means that if any potential or existing client meets the eligibility criteria, we will be able to represent them with funding from the Legal Aid Agency. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to know if you meet the criteria. We will explain the criteria to you and help you to assess your eligibility for you.

For your ease of reference, subject to you meeting the eligibility criteria, Legal Aid is available as follows:

Legal Aid / Public funding in Family

Parents whose children are subject to care and supervision order proceedings (public law) are automatically eligible for legal aid.

Legal aid is also available for other family members in care and supervision order proceedings, family/childcare/ financial relief and domestic abuse matters provided the individual applying for legal aid passes the means and merits test. The means test relates to income and the merits test relates to whether the case is worth pursuing by the Legal Aid Agency.

Please contact us should you need to clarify the legal aid eligibility criteria further.
Initial consultation

We charge for consultations as follows:

In all matters we offer initial consultation with no follow-up - £150 plus VAT

Initial consultation with follow-up letter confirming advice for not more than one hour - £350 plus VAT. Any additional rate will be charged at our following hourly rates.

Partners: £350 plus VAT per hour (unless varied by agreement in writing)

Solicitors: £200 plus VAT per hour

Trainees: £150 plus VAT per hour

Caseworkers: £90 plus VAT per hour

Fixed fees

We offer specialist legal advice at affordable fees for our private paying clients with flexible payment plans to meet their individual financial needs. Please see our fixed fee funding options below:

Divorce proceedings

Assisting petitioner with completing petition only - £500 plus VAT

Assisting respondent with completing acknowledgment of service only - £300 plus VAT

Full representation in 'straight forward' divorce from start of case to conclusion:

Petitioner - £1800 plus VAT

Respondent - £900 plus VAT

(Please be aware that a divorce is classified as 'straight forward' if no additional applications outside the regular applications must be made to progress the divorce.)

Section 8 Children Act matters (Child Arrangements)

Assisting applicant to complete initial application form(s) only - £600 plus VAT

Assisting applicant or respondent to draft statement - £450 plus VAT

Assisting the applicant to prepare the court bundle and responding to Court schedule £650 Plus VAT

Representing the client from the commencement of the application until the end of the proceedings where there is no complication, and the hearing is limited to one only: £1800.00 plus VAT exclusive of Counsel's fees which will be advised upon the listing of the case, and we instruct Counsel. Our clients are at liberty to instruct their own counsels if they wish. Our costs cover briefs to the counsel too.

Non-Molestation and Occupation Orders

Assisting applicant to complete initial application form only - £500 plus VAT

Assisting applicant to draft supporting statement - £450 plus VAT

Assisting respondent to complete form to oppose the order/s - £450 plus VAT

Assisting respondent to draft statement - £550 plus VAT

Our fixed fee rate packages DO NOT cover:

- Court fees and disbursements such as interpreter fees, postage, counsels' costs etc.*
- Applications such as those which may become necessary in divorces such as when the Respondent does not acknowledge service*
- The financial aspect of a divorce also known as Financial Relief*

We shall always discuss our fees and any possible additional fees before accepting instructions. The costs of these incidental applications in Divorce matters can be expensive and depend on the simplicity or complexity. We will charge our normal hourly rates or agree fixed fees where possible. This must be agreed before we can take on any such additional works and the client will be at liberty to seek a second opinion and transfer their cases elsewhere if they find cheaper alternatives.

Unbundling services

We are happy to assist in cases where an individual wants to retain control of his/her case and require our assistance to carry out particular pieces of work such as preparing statements, responding to court directions or attending some court hearings.

*In these instances, our fees will be based on the amount of work to be undertaken and the hourly rates of the fee earner with conduct as set out above
The above hourly rates are in accordance with solicitors' guideline hourly rates provided by the Senior Courts Costs Office (SCCO) available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/solicitors-guideline-hourly-rates>.*

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss our fees.

CRIME:

Suspects under arrest at a police station are automatically entitled to free legal advice under the legal aid regime from a criminal defence lawyer. We are available 24 hours 7 days a week.

Legal Aid – also known as public funding – is, however, means tested and this means that some defendants may not be eligible for Legal Aid if a case goes to a Magistrates' Court or Crown Court.

The interest of justice test which is whether a client is likely to lose their liberty determines a client's eligibility to free legal aid. Their eligibility therefore depends on the severity of the offence, whether they are likely to lose their liberty and if they meet the merit test.

In some cases, if you are eligible for legal aid, you may have to pay something towards your legal costs. This will happen if your income, savings and other capital (items of value that you own e.g., your home has equity) are above a certain level (this is called a 'contribution'). It is important to note that in most cases, if you lose your case, you may have to pay your opponent's costs. Further advice is available from us.

Fees for driving and road traffic offences:

There is no criminal legal aid for the following summary only motoring offences under Part I of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and s89 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984:

- 1. Drink driving*
- 2. Drug driving*
- 3. Failing to provide a specimen in connection with a drink or drug related case*
- 4. Driving without due care and attention*

5. *Speeding*
6. *Failing to provide driver details*
7. *Failing to stop/report after an accident*

In the above cases where there is a straightforward guilty plea, we represent clients on fixed fee basis.

Depending on whether we must travel far away, we will usually charge between, £800 to £1000 plus VAT (charged at 20%). This will cover as follows:

- *1 hour 30 mins to 2 hours attendance/preparation:*
- *Considering evidence, taking your instructions, providing advice on a likely sentence, attendance and representation at a single hearing and half a day Magistrates Court hearing.*

This does not cover the instruction of any expert witnesses, taking statements from any witnesses, advice and assistance in relation to any hearing for exceptional hardship circumstances hardship hearing

- *Advice or assistance in relation to any appeal*
- *Disbursements in respect of our mileage/travel expenses in attending court. Mileage Is charged at 45 p per mile*

The above information assumes that you have pleaded guilty and have a hearing date and will:

- *Meet with your solicitor to provide instructions on what happened*
- *We will consider initial disclosure, and any other evidence and provide advice*
- *Arranging to take any witness statements if necessary (this will have an additional cost of £200 per hour plus VAT)*
- *We will explain the court procedure to you, so you know what to expect on the day of your hearing, and the sentencing options available to the court*
- *We will conduct any further preparatory work, obtain further instructions from you if necessary and answer any follow-up queries you have*
- *We cannot provide a timescale of when your hearing will take place, as this depends on the court listing for that day*
- *We will attend court on the day and meet with you before going before the court. We anticipate being in court for half a day*
- *We will discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this will carry an additional cost. We shall advice on the likely costs, and you have the choice to seek a second opinion and instruct us or someone else.*

***PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OUR 24 HOURS CRIME HOTLINE ON
07984694981***

PROBATE

When someone dies, you need to have the legal right to deal with their affairs. If the person left a Will, you would require a grant of probate. If they did not leave a Will, you require a grant of letters of administration from the court. We understand that this can often be very difficult moments. Our compassionate team can assist you with applying to the court to obtain the right to deal with the estate of the deceased only if that is what you would like or

assist you in calling in the assets of the estate, paying the inland revenue where applicable and distribution of the estate where the distribution is noncontentious. We do not do contentious matters and will be happy to refer you to a few contacts who do if you wish. You have a duty to make your own enquiries and be sure that you are happy to be represented by them on their own terms. Alternatively, we can sign post you to the Law Society where you can find a solicitor who you believe meets your needs.

We are happy to advise you on an initial consultation basis on what will be required and the estimated time frames.

The key stages of a probate matter which will be covered by your instructions which we will charge for will include:

- An initial one-to-one conversation with one of our experienced probate solicitors who will work on your matter.*
- A review of the will (or of the application of the intestacy rules where there is no valid will) to identify those who are entitled to be executor or administrator and to identify any potential issues that may prevent or delay the grant of probate.*
- Identifying the type of probate application, you require.*
- Verifying the nature and probate value of the relevant assets and liabilities required to make the application.*
- Making an initial computation of the inheritance tax due, including quantifying the first instalment of such tax.*
- Completing the relevant inheritance tax forms and submitting them to you for signature.*
- Assisting and advising on how to finance the payment of the first instalment of inheritance tax (required to apply for the grant of probate).*
- Submitting the signed inheritance tax forms to HMRC.*
- Preparing and submitting the application to the Probate Registry for the grant.*
- Making the application to the Probate Registry on your behalf.*
- Realising in the UK and abroad assets where necessary and instructed to do so, including instructing any relevant third parties. Please be advised that tracing and realizing assets abroad may cause additional charges. We cannot estimate what that may be as this may depend on the relevant jurisdiction and what the professionals there may charge. We shall of course find out and let you know before we commence work on your matter.*
- Advice on tracing any beneficiary named in the will.*
- Settling liabilities and administration expenses.*
- Advising on and settling inheritance tax liability in the administration period.*
- Preparing and obtaining the approval of the estate accounts.*
- Distributing the assets (or their proceeds) in accordance with the terms of the will and obtaining appropriate receipts.*

The fees which we will charge, and which are set down below will not include any of the following which will be considered additional or contentious work that is not within our expertise and therefore not within the remits of our instructions. Work such as:

- Any legal challenge as to the validity of the will or your entitlement to the grant of probate.*
- Any challenges by beneficiaries and third parties in relation to any distribution.*
- Liaising with lawyers or representatives as to overseas elements of the estate.*
- Litigation in which the estate is a claimant or defendant.*

- Standalone legal work involved in the sale of estate assets.
- Tax advice, other than that set out above (e.g. working with an accountant in relation to income tax or capital gains tax returns).

What we will charge:

- Partners: £350 plus VAT per hour (unless varied by agreement in writing)
- Solicitors: £200 plus VAT per hour
- Trainees: £150 plus VAT per hour
- Caseworkers: £90 plus VAT per hour

In some exceptional cases, we may agree to work on a fixed-fee, contingency or damages-based basis. If this happens, we must agree the fees and confirm the agreement in writing before we can begin working for you.

How much we will agree on every case depends on the uniqueness, simplicity, complexity of the case on the estimated sum total of the estate of the deceased. How much we can charge and what we consider to be the nature of the case will become apparent during our initial consultations and discussions with the client. It is therefore not always possible to successfully discuss estimate the fixed costs. On this note we will usually suggest the following fees, and this is for what is included as set out above:

- Low complexity – from £7,000 to £25,000 plus VAT
- Mid complexity – from £25,000 to £40,000 plus VAT
- High complexity – £40,000 plus VAT and above.

The following factors will increase the complexity of the matter:

- Issues as to the validity of the will or a missing original will.
- Complex legal issues or uncertainties arising from the terms of the will upon which we may need to seek Counsel's opinion at additional costs to you.
- High-value estates.
- Complex UK and Foreign inheritance tax or other tax issues.
- Large numbers of assets to be distributed.
- Large numbers of beneficiaries.
- Disagreements between Executors, Administrators or with beneficiaries.
- Where you have appointed us as your executor.
- Foreign wills, assets and liabilities.
- The need for an unusually large number of face-to-face meetings with you, with others or visits to a property.
- High-value assets in the estate such as properties, investments and other items.
- Complicated liabilities of the estate.
- Protracted discussions with HMRC and the District Valuer.
- If there is no will or the estate consists of any shareholdings (stocks and bonds), there is likely to be additional costs that could range significantly depending on the estate and how it is to be dealt with. We can give you a more accurate quote once we have more information.
- Issues of fraud on the estate
- Liaising with other foreign solicitors, instructing them or taking instructions from them

In addition to our fees, you will need to budget for the following:

- Valuation fees for assets of the estate (£50 (for a small item) to £15,000 (for a substantial asset)
- Probate Registry application fees
- Bankruptcy searches (£10.99 per person per search)
- HMLR Office Copy entries (£3 per entry per search)
- Advertising in the Gazette (section 27 Trustee Act notice £70)
- Advertising in a newspaper (fees vary from £50 to £500, per notice, depending on the paper)
- Inheritance Tax

You are responsible for these costs and should make provisions for them. We can of course make the payments on your behalf. We shall continue to advise on likely additional costs to the estate as the case developed.

IMMIGRATION

We do not have a contract in immigration law. We are therefore only able to advise on private fee basis.

Depending on the circumstances of the client, the nature of the application, simplicity or complexity, we can advise on an hourly basis or fixed fee.

Our hourly basis are as follows:

- Partners: £350 plus VAT per hour (unless varied by agreement in writing)
- Solicitors: £200 plus VAT per hour
- Trainees: £150 plus VAT per hour
- Caseworkers: £90 plus VAT per hour

Our fixed fee depending on the complexity of the application are as follows:

- Simple non complicated for entry clearance/Visa for family reunion, visits, study, tourism and others from abroad will be £1800 to £4000. *
- We reserve the right to increase our fees if during the cause of the application something which was not disclosed to us at the point of initial consultation arises and require us to do any additional work.
- Complex entry clearance application as detailed at number 1 above £4000 -£15000*. We cannot charge any additional fees if the application becomes complex without discussing this with the client first and giving the client the opportunity to seek legal advice and take the case elsewhere if they prefer.
- Application for spousal visa from the UK following change of status or wish to vary
- £5000. * This will change if the application becomes complex.
- Simple non-complex applications for the extension of Spousal, visitors, family, student visas and other visas £1900-£2500. *

- *Simple non-complex application for indefinite leave to remain in the UK for adults and children in the UK £2000-£5000*. The fees will be reviewed and agreed if the case becomes complex.*
- *Business Visas. We do not currently have the expertise for this category of visa, but we are happy to refer clients to other firms or the law society find a lawyer assistance.*
- *Appeals to First Tier Tribunal £2500 -£6000**
- *Appeals to the Upper Tribunal and JR £4000-£15000**

Our costs will cover all advice and preparation of the application, forwarding the same to the Home Office, arranging biometric appointments for the client liaising with the Home Office and responding to their enquiries, updating clients regularly until a decision is made in their application. If a positive decision is received, then the client will not have to pay any additional fees. If a negative decision is made and we have to advise the client on the merits of the applications, this will be free but if we are required to assist the client in appealing the decision and conduct the case all the way to the first-tier tribunal, then our appeal fees will apply.

Given the delays we constantly encounter with decisions coming through from the home office, we cannot accurately estimate the time for a decision to be received but it usually takes up to 12 months or more depending on the nature of the application. Clients are encouraged to be patient and give the Home Office a minimum of 13 weeks to respond or acknowledge the receipt of their application before making any enquiries about the status of the application. We will always do our best to send reminders to the home office at regular intervals where we consider it necessary.

** Please note that our fees do not include any application fees and disbursements payable to the Home Office or any third-party including experts, courts in cases where consent is needed to disclose an order in a children's matter to the Home Office and Counsels. These are additional fees which the client must ensure that they set aside for their application. As the Home Office fee scales are always published and can change at regular intervals, we shall always advise our client on the necessary fees when they consult us and before we take their instructions.*

PLEASE NOTE: VAT will be added to our fees where applicable.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any immigration matter and we shall always do our best to assist you.

General Free advice

We are always happy to assist clients on 10 mins initial no obligation consultation only basis wherever possible and refer them on if we cannot help. So, feel free to contact us if you need help that you think that we can assist with