

UNIT

C H A M B E R S

Transparency document

About us

We are a team of barristers who specialise in Family Law. That includes all matters relating to divorce, the arrangements for children, financial disputes as well as injunctive protection. We are able to provide advice and representation in all family matters.

Contact us

You are invited to contact us if you wish to instruct a barrister under the Public Access scheme on 0333 015 4121 or email, engage@unit.law

Price Transparency

Family work is either funded by legal aid or privately depending on your circumstances or the circumstances of your case. Information regarding legal aid for family work can be found on the GOV.UK website (<http://www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid>)

Our fees are flexible and transparent.

Timescales for a case may vary depending on factors such as barristers' availability, the type and complexity of the case, the other side's approach and court waiting times.

Our support team are always available to discuss levels of fees. The more information that we have about a case, the easier it is to provide an accurate estimate.

Hourly Rate

The setting of hourly rates is not necessarily straightforward and a number of factors may determine the rate that we choose to set; for example, the complexity of the instructions, the difficulty or novelty of the questions raised, the seniority of the instructed barrister, the type of client, the urgency or otherwise of the work required and the other commitments of the instructed barrister.

Brief Fee and Refresher

A brief fee is a fixed fee which covers preparation for a trial and the first day. A refresher is a fixed fee for each subsequent day of the trial (which includes ongoing preparation).

Additional costs

Please note that there may be additional costs, such as travel expenses and time as well as accommodation costs which are not included in the barrister's fees.

Key Stages

Key stages in your case may include, (in the order a case usually takes):

- An initial meeting with your barrister to discuss your case when the details will be explored and an overall strategy set. This may be a face-to-face meeting, possibly in Unit Chambers (Liverpool or Manchester) or maybe over video or by telephone.
- It may be appropriate for your barrister to provide written advice on your dispute.
- Case preparation, including further meetings with you and assistance with drafting of any court documents.
- The first hearing. This may be the First Appointment (FA), First Hearing Dispute Resolution Appointments (FHDRA) directions and emergency hearings.
- Further short hearings (usually for one hour or more). These may include, depending on the type of case, return dates, Financial Dispute Resolution appointments (FDRs), Case Management Hearings (CMH), Pre-Trial Reviews (PTR), directions appointments, and other interim hearings. Which of these will be taking place and their purpose and structure will be explained at an early stage.
- First day of Final Hearing or Trial. In some cases, there will be a longer court-set timetable involving several days of trial.
- Court appearances per day, after the first day of the Final Hearing or Trial.
- Appeals can take place after the court has made a decision either at an early hearing or at the end of a trial. The decision to appeal or respond to an appeal will be yours but only after you have been given full advice.

It may be that some of these stages have taken place before you choose to instruct a barrister from Unit Chambers. Given full access to the case papers including court orders, your barrister will be able to assist you with the stages yet to come.

Indicative timescales

As a general guide, a case's progress through the courts falls into stages. At the beginning of each stage, the time needed can usually be estimated. If the case is already underway in the courts a date for a hearing may have been set together with a time estimate for its length.

Where work is to be done on your behalf by a barrister from Unit Chambers a clear timescale will be given and the work will be done on time. Written work will usually be produced within four weeks of your instructions, more quickly if necessary.

Generally contested disputes take up to 12 months, sometimes longer, to resolve depending on their complexity, the behaviour of the other party or parties and the availability of the court. This does not include appeals or subsequent applications for variation or enforcement.

The time taken to prepare a case for a hearing and the duration of a hearing cannot be estimated without detailed information relating to the case. Timescales for your case may vary depending on factors such as your or your barristers' availability, the complexity of the issues and the extent to which they are in dispute. However, the court may have already set a time and date for the next hearing or have timetabled the case through several stages.

In all cases, you will be asked at the first stage to explain your case in some detail and provide documents relating to the dispute and any court orders already made. This will allow a reliable estimate for preparation to be prepared. Unfortunately, the time taken to get the case to court is not simply a question of the preparation time put in by your barrister. During the pandemic severe delays have been experienced creating a backlog of unheard cases within the court system, this backlog is currently growing, and delays are getting longer. Short or "no notice" adjournments of cases due to a shortage of judges, difficulties with remote hearing technology and other problems the courts are experiencing have become a regular feature for court users. These are all beyond your barrister's control. When your case is considered by our experienced support team and your barrister an estimate of the timescale of the key stages will be made but this is always subject to variation due to matters beyond our control.

Areas of Work

The fees and timescales given below are estimates only and do not include VAT. For a more precise quotation and information about timescales, as well as more information about the key stages in any type of case, please contact our dedicated support team.

Type of work	Estimated fee
Full Day Hearing/Brief on Final Hearing	£1,250-£7,350 + vat
Half Day Hearing/Refresher	£800-£3,500 + vat
One Hour Hearing	£800-£3,500 + vat
IRH	£850-£2,650 + vat
Conference	£150-£250 + vat per hour
Written Advice/Paperwork	£150-£250 + vat per hour
Hourly Rate	£150-£750 + vat per hour

Type of work (Financial Remedy)	Estimated fee
First Appointment Hearing	£1,000-£2,500 + vat
FDR	£1,500-£5,500 + vat
Directions Appointment	£1,000-£2,500 + vat
Final Hearing	£3,000-£8,500 + vat
Refresher	£1,500-£3,500 + vat
Conference	£150-£250 + vat per hour
Written Advice/Paperwork	£150-£250 + vat per hour
Hourly Rate	£150-£750 + vat per hour

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