

## **DIRECT PUBLIC ACCESS FACTSHEET**

### **Financial Disputes in Divorce Cases**

Our barristers can advise you if you and your former partner cannot agree on financial matters during, or after, a divorce. For example, you may not be able to agree on how assets should be divided, whether to sell your home or other assets, maintenance payments or pension sharing.

If you cannot agree, you can apply to the court for a financial order. You may need to attend several court hearings – our barristers can represent you in these hearings.

### **Timescales**

Timescales for your case may vary depending on factors such as barristers' availability, the value and complexity of your assets, whether you have children, how much you have already agreed with your former partner and their approach. Written advice on your financial dispute will be available within two to four weeks where possible. As a guide, court hearings for a financial order tend to take six to twelve months. This does not include possible appeals.

### **Fees**

We may charge fixed fees, which means that we will charge you a set amount of money for the work. Below we provide estimates based upon the ranges of fixed fees and hourly rates for barristers in Thomas More Chambers, where the parties have joint assets which are worth less than £300,000. All specified fees do not include VAT but are always stated to be for the fixed amount (or, where applicable, hourly rate) plus VAT (where applicable), e.g. £1,000 plus VAT.

If we charge fixed fees, these may be towards the higher end of the range if you need a more experienced barrister and/or you have a more complex case.

If you have a particularly complex case, your fees may also be higher than the estimates below.

We may also charge fees on an hourly rate basis. Such fees may be charged in relation to written advices and preparation of your case. We do not charge fees for actual hearings on an hourly rate basis.

The hourly rate will depend upon the complexity of your case and the level of experience of your barrister. The number of hours involved in relation to any piece of work will be determined by the amount of work involved (which will be influenced by factors such as the amount of paperwork relating to your case and the complexity of your case). The number of hours involved may exceed the upper end of the estimate of hours set out below.

## **Fixed fees**

<b>Stage of case</b>	<b>Range of fixed fees (estimates)</b>
Written advice on your financial dispute	£525 plus VAT to £3,500 plus VAT
Preparation of case, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting of any court documents	£1,000 plus VAT to £7,000 plus VAT
First appointment (first court hearing exchanging financial information)	£1,250 plus VAT to £2,750 plus VAT
Financial dispute resolution appointment (second court hearing to reach a financial settlement)	£2,000 plus VAT to £4,000 plus VAT
First day of final hearing (if no settlement was reached in the financial dispute resolution appointment)	£1,750 plus VAT to £6,000 plus VAT
Court appearances per day, after the first day of the final hearing	£1,000 plus VAT to £3,000 plus VAT

## **Hourly rates**

<b>Stage of case</b>	<b>Range of hourly rates (estimates)</b>
Written advice on your financial dispute	£175 plus VAT to £350 plus VAT Between approximately 3 and 10 hours
Preparation of case, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting of any court documents	£175 plus VAT to £350 plus VAT Between approximately 5 and 20 hours

## **Contact us**

All information is correct as of 30 August 2023 but fees are estimates only.  
For a quotation please contact our clerks on 02074047000 or [clerks@thomasmore.co.uk](mailto:clerks@thomasmore.co.uk)