

## Family Disputes Involving Children

Our barristers can advise you if you and your former partner cannot agree on the residence or contact of your child/children. For example, you may not be able to agree on who your child/children live with on permanent basis and/or when they see the other respective parent

Timescales for your case may vary depending on factors such as; barristers' availability, the complexity of your case (and whether one or multiple jurisdictions are involved), and how much you have already agreed with your former partner, and their approach to resolving the issues.

Written advice on your children dispute will be available within two to four weeks where possible. As a guide, court hearings for a children order tend to take eight to twelve months. This does not include possible appeals and can sometimes take longer depending on several factors – for example whether expert reports are needed, valuations, Court availability, representation availability (both parties).

### Fees

Children disputes could be entirely straight forward or involve incredibly complex issues of jurisdictions, abuse or Domestic violence. The work that is undertaken is broad and is entirely dependent upon the individual circumstances of the children dispute. For that reason, it is not practicable for us to provide a total cost of the service covering all eventualities.

Our charges can be based either upon a fixed fee, for certain components, an hourly rate, or a combination of the two depending upon your individual circumstances including your and the other parties' approach to the matter. It is not possible to provide a fixed price for each component part of a case without knowing the intricacies of each stage of the proceedings. As a guide our Barristers charge an hourly rate ranging between £150 per hour and £300 per hour (plus VAT where applicable) and set fees can be agreed based on the preparation and court time for each specific circumstance.

All fees, for every item of work will be agreed in advance with you, no work will be undertaken without your consent. You have price certainty at every stage

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### Stage of Case Ranges of fixed fees (estimates)

Written Advice: £250 – £1000

Drafting Court Application: £250 – £1000

Drafting Statement: £500 – £1500

Review of Statement: £250 – £750

First court hearing (to see if the parties can agree) : £350 – £1500

Directions Hearing (If parties cannot agree, to arrange final hearing): £350 – £1750

Interim Hearing (In some cases it may be necessary to, for example, decide whether a child should have contact with a parent before the final hearing) : £350 – £2250

Pre-hearing review (to ensure the case is ready for the final hearing): £350 – £1750

First day of final hearing: £1000 – £5000

Court appearances per day, after the first day of the final hearing: £500 – £3000

If your case requires Court hearings, you may be required to pay the Court Issue fee. Details of these can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/court-fees-what-they-are) (\*<https://www.gov.uk/court-fees-what-they-are>). Or if you require an expert this may incur additional costs.

### Contact Us

All information is correct as of January 2020, but fees are estimates only. For a quotation, please contact the clerks on [02380 736 812](tel:02380736812) or email

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