

A GUIDE TO CHARGES

First meeting

We usually offer a first appointment free of charge to discuss divorce/separation. The purpose of the first meeting is to provide you with a general overview of your case.

If specific detailed advice or work is required from the outset, there will be a charge for this and we will provide you with a **fixed fee** quote prior to the meeting. Usually meetings regarding issues in relation to children, or where court proceedings have been started will be chargeable.

Following the initial meeting you may require one or more of the following services and we have set out below a general guide to our charges:

- **Divorce**: (Where you are the applicant) - **£400** plus VAT (plus the court fee which is currently **£612**).
- **Financial Consent Order**: starting at **£750** plus VAT - **£3000** plus VAT for more complex consent orders.
- If you require us to submit the consent order to the court and complete the necessary forms (the D81) - starting at **£500** plus VAT plus the court fee of **£60**.
- **Child Arrangements**: to include negotiations and preparing a Parenting plan should an agreement be reached - **£1,000** to **£3,000** plus VAT.
- **Child Arrangements consent order**: This usually involves a court hearing, and drafting an application. If the court makes the order at the first hearing and there are no further negotiations required: **£1500** plus VAT plus the court fee of **£263**.
- **Separation Agreement**: starting at **£1,500** plus VAT.
- **Cohabitation Agreement**: starting at **£2,000** plus VAT.
- **Prenuptial Agreement**: starting at **£2,500** plus VAT.

Non court dispute resolution

- **Collaborative**:¹ from **£2,000** to **£10,000** plus VAT and disbursements
- **Resolution Together**:² initial meeting (with single clients) **£150** plus VAT

¹ Both parties have their own lawyer, and negotiations take place using round table meetings with both parties and their lawyers (and often other professionals such as accountants and financial advisors) avoiding unnecessary written correspondence.

² This service is suitable for clients who want to work together with one lawyer, rather than each instructing their own lawyers, and is suitable for both children and financial issues in appropriate cases.

- **Resolution Together:** joint meetings **£350** per hour plus VAT (or **£175** plus VAT per person per hour).
- **Mediation (MIAM):**³ **£100** plus VAT per person.
- **Joint mediation meetings:** **£120** plus VAT **per hour**, per person – children only
£130 plus VAT **per hour** per person – finances/children

If you are unable to reach agreement:⁴

In these circumstances

- **Financial settlements:** including negotiation carried out by SLS on your behalf and drafting a consent order: an average case costs between **£5,000 - £10,000** plus VAT and disbursements and the court fee, currently **£60**.
- **Court proceedings:** (divorce or children cases): where court proceedings are necessary an average case costs between **£7,000 and £50,000** plus VAT (not including barristers' fees and other disbursements). Please note the current court fee for financial remedy proceedings is **£313** and for child arrangements is **£263**.

³ Clients are charged at the mediation hourly rate below for the production of the formal mediation documents.

⁴ Clients are charged between £330 and £210 per hour plus VAT depending on the seniority of the fee earner carrying out the work, and the nature and complexity of the case. Specific costs estimates will be given for each individual case. The above estimates are provided as a general guide.