

Public Access – Financial Dispute in Divorce

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 a court for a financial order. You may need to attend a number of 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 on the ranges of fixed fees for barristers in Unity Street Chambers, based on their seniority, where the parties have joint assets which are worth less than £300,000. All fees are charged exclusive of VAT (where applicable).

If we charge fixed fees, these may be towards the higher end of the range if you need a more experienced barrister. If you have a particularly complex case, your fees may also be higher than the estimates below.

Our barristers' hourly rates range between £125 + VAT and £250 + VAT.

There are also likely to be additional costs as follows:

- Court fees £255 (for further information see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fees-in-the-civil-and-family-courts-main-fees-ex50>)
- Expert fees costs will depend on the nature of the expert evidence required (eg: property valuation, pension report, medical report, etc)

Stage of case

Ranges of fixed fees (estimates)

	Up to 5 yrs call	6-10yrs call	11+ yrs call
Written advice on your financial dispute	£750- £1,000 (plus VAT)	£850- £1,500 (plus VAT)	£1,000- £2,000 (plus VAT)
Preparation of case, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting of any court documents	£1,000- £1,500 (plus VAT)	£1,500 - £2,000 (plus VAT)	£2,000 – £3,000 (plus VAT)

First appointment (first court hearing exchanging financial information)	£650-£850 (plus VAT)	£750- £1,000 (plus VAT)	£950- £1,500 (plus VAT)
Financial dispute resolution appointment (second court hearing to reach a financial settlement)	£1,000- £1,500 (plus VAT)	£1,200 - £1,700 (plus VAT)	£1,500- £2,500 (plus VAT)
First day of final hearing (if no settlement was reached in the financial dispute resolution appointment)	£1,500- £2,000 (plus VAT)	£1,800 - £2,500 (plus VAT)	£2,000 - £3,000 (plus VAT)
Court appearances per day, after the first day of the final hearing	£850- £1,000 (plus VAT)	£1,000- £1,200 (plus VAT)	£1,200- £1,800 (plus VAT)

Contact Us

All information is correct as of February 2021, but fees are estimates only. For a quotation, please contact the clerks on 0117 906 9789 or by e-mail clerks@unitystreetchambers.com. Please also contact the clerks if you and your former partner have joint assets which are worth more than £300,000.