

Goldsmith Chambers – Direct Access Fees: Financial Disputes following Divorce (when joint assets are worth less than £300,000)

Barristers at Goldsmith Chambers are available to advise you at all stages of the process, from initial advice to representation at a Final Hearing. Financial disputes involve decisions as to how the matrimonial assets are to be divided on divorce. Potential issues may include issues such as whether or not the family home or other assets should be sold, whether maintenance payment should be paid and whether pensions should be shared. If the parties cannot agree these issues, either party may apply to the Court for a financial Order. An issue fee will be payable to the Court by the party making the application. If an expert is instructed in your case, such as an actuary or a surveyor, a fee will be payable to the expert. Usually the parties jointly instruct experts and so the expert's fee is shared between the parties.

Timescales

There is the potential for there to be three Court hearings, over a period of six to twelve months, although many parties reach an agreement at the second hearing. The timescales for each case may vary due to factors such as a barrister's availability, complexity of the case, Court listing, whether you have children, the degree to which issues may be agreed with your partner, each party's compliance with Court Directions and willingness to deal with the issues.

Fees

Often fees will be quoted on a fixed fee basis but sometimes a fee may be based on an hourly rate. Some financial remedy cases are fairly straight forward. However, others can be incredibly complex, involving assets based in different jurisdictions. The timescales that apply, and whether there is any urgency, as well as the availability and seniority of the barrister you request may also affect your quotation. It is not possible to state the precise fee for your needs here so please feel free to contact the Family Clerking Team in order to receive a quotation (see contact details below). Each fee will be agreed in advance of any work being done, in order to give you certainty. VAT is payable on all fees where applicable.

<u>Key Stages of Case</u>	<u>Examples of hourly/capped fees</u>
Written advice on your financial dispute, preparation of case, conferences, assistance in drafting any Court documents.	£200 to £500 per hour (+ VAT where applicable)
First Hearing: First Directions Appointment (FDA) (where the court identifies issues and makes case management directions)	£750 to £2,500 (+ VAT where applicable)
Second Hearing: Financial Dispute Resolution Appointment (FDR) (where the court assists parties to negotiate with a view to reaching a financial settlement)	£1,500 to £5,000 (+ VAT where applicable)
First Day of Final Hearing (if no agreement reached at the FDR)	£2,000 to £8,000 (+ VAT where applicable)
Each subsequent day of the Final Hearing	£1,500 to £4,000 (+ VAT where applicable)

For a quotation, please complete [the enquiry form on the Direct Access page](#), with the details of your case. Alternatively, please contact our Family Clerking Team on 0207 353 6802. Your enquiry will then be forwarded to a barrister and a quotation will be sent to you. Please remember to state if your assets are more than £300,000.

All information is correct as of 31.03.2021, but fees are estimates only.



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Regulated by the Bar Standards Board

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