

Your Fixed Fee Divorce

The CP Law Solicitors Fixed Fee Divorce covers all steps from initial instructions through to the Decree Absolute in divorce cases or the Decree in judicial separations.

How much will it cost?

Assuming that the divorce or judicial separation is straightforward, the cost will be £1,130.00 which is payable in two instalments at each step as follows:

Step 1

£600 - payable at your first meeting when you will need to provide completed fact sheet

Step 2

£530 - payable on pronouncement of the Decree Nisi

The fees break down as follows:-

Our Fees	£600.00
VAT @ prevailing rate	£120.00
Court fees	£410.00
Total	£1,130.00

The only other sums you may have to pay are a fee of £7.00 if we need to obtain a copy of your marriage certificate, and between £5.00- £9.00 when you swear your Affidavit in support of the Divorce petition (when we ask the Court to fix a date for Decree Nisi).

What work is covered?

Before your first meeting with one of our Family Lawyers, we need you to complete the enclosed FACT SHEET. These contain most of the information

we will need to prepare the petition for your approval. This plan covers the preparation and issue of the Divorce Petition and all the steps that need to be taken to obtain Decree Absolute.

What work is not covered?

Should the matter become more complex, for example your spouse defends the proceedings or files a Cross Petition (seeking a cross divorce against you), we reserve the right to increase the costs according to the extra work incurred. Should this happen, we will notify you as soon as practicable, and before any additional costs are involved. We will give you an estimate of the likely increase in the fees, and outline the additional work we will need to undertake. If the Petition is defended, the procedure becomes more complex and differs from that outlined in the following pages. We will explain the revised procedure to you at the time.

The other problem that may occur, and which will increase the fees, is if your spouse fails to return the acknowledgement of service. On issuing the Papers, the Court posts the Petition to your spouse or their solicitors together with an Acknowledgement of Service form. If your spouse fails to complete and return the Acknowledgement form it may become necessary to have a further set of the papers served personally by the Court Bailiff so that the divorce can progress. If this is necessary, our fees will increase by the cost of the Bailiff service fee (currently £100.00). Usually we are able to give you a clear indication, in advance, of the likely cost.

Summary of work not covered:

- Any work that is necessary if the Petition becomes defended, or needs to be altered (amended) once it has been issued by the Court.
- Enquiry Agents fees if the papers have to be served personally on your spouse (as explained above).
- The cost of swearing the affidavit in support of the Petition (between £5.00-£9.00).
- The fee for obtaining a copy marriage certificate (£7.00)
- Any advice and proceedings concerning property, finances and children.

How will any subsequent proceedings relating to your property or any children be paid for?

On our standard hourly rate plus VAT.

You will usually need to resolve the financial aspects of your separation and issues concerning any children before the Decree Absolute is granted. Any work we undertake will be charged at our usual hourly rate. However, we can usually give you a clear indication of the likely fees involved if you have reached an agreement in respect of the financial aspects of your separation in advance. Any agreement will need to be recorded in a Consent Order. If the financial aspects of your separation have not been resolved, these will need to be addressed.

Is your spouse liable for your costs?

During divorce proceedings, you can ask for a Court Order that your spouse contributes to the costs of the divorce. This may cover some or all of the fees you incur under this plan. We will

explain how this works during our meeting.

If an Order for costs is made against your spouse, then included within this payment plan is an initial letter to recover those fees, but the plan does not include the fees for enforcing any Order for costs made within the divorce proceedings. If we have to help you enforce the order, there will be additional costs involved, again some or all of these may be recovered from your spouse.

Next Steps?

You should read the section headed Divorce Procedure. This has been produced by Resolution and explains the various grounds on which a divorce petition can be filed.

If you would like to proceed with us, we will need you to complete the accompanying FACT SHEETS.

When you come for your first meeting, please bring:

- Your marriage certificate
- The completed Matrimonial FACT SHEET together with supporting documents
- The initial £600.00 payment

For further information or to instruct CP Law Solicitors please contact Lee Pashen on 0118 974 7923 or e-mail leep@cplaw.co.uk

About Lee

Lee specialises in all aspects of private family law including divorce, separation, pre-nuptial agreements and separation agreements.

