



**Atherton
Godfrey**
SOLICITORS

FIXED FEES DIVORCE, SEPARATION AND FINANCES

Fixed fee initial advice appointment	£75 + VAT
Divorce/civil partnership dissolution: Petitioner	£600+ VAT + court fees
Divorce/civil partnership dissolution: Respondent	£350 + VAT
Financial consent order	£650+ VAT + court fees
Advice in support of mediation	£200 + VAT

Fixed fee initial advice appointment

Our fees: £75 + VAT = £90

What is included?

- Up to 30 minutes meeting with experienced family lawyer who will provide tailored advice
- Copy of attendance note detailing advice
- Relevant information sheets

What is not included?

- Any correspondence or follow up work

When do I pay?

- £90 at the meeting

Divorce/civil partnership dissolution: Petitioner

Costs:

- **Our fees: £600 + VAT = £720**
- **Court fee: £550**
- **Total: £1,270**

An additional fee of £75 plus VAT (=£90) is payable for any negotiations about the costs of the divorce.

What is included?

- One meeting including initial advice in relation to financial matters and children
- Preparation of the Divorce Petition, Statement in Support of Divorce, applications for Decree Nisi and Absolute
- Confirmation of advice and updates by letter

What is not included?

- Obtaining certified copy of the marriage certificate
- Enquiry agent's fees if the divorce papers need to be personally served on your spouse
- Negotiation about the costs of divorce
- Enforcement of Costs Order
- Additional advice in relation to financial matters or children

When do I pay?

- £360 at first meeting
- £550 (court fee) before petition is sent to court
- £120 on petition being issued by the court; and
- £240 before application of Decree Nisi.

Divorce/civil partnership dissolution: Respondent

Our fees: £350 + VAT = £420

An additional fee of £75 plus VAT (= £90) is payable for any negotiations about the costs of the divorce.

What is included?

- One meeting
- Preparation of Acknowledgement of Service
- Confirmation of advice and updates by letter

What is not included?

- Negotiation in relation to costs of divorce
- Application of Decree Absolute if not applied for by spouse (Petitioner)
- Enforcement of Costs Order
- Any advice in relation to financial matters or children

When do I pay?

- £420 at first meeting.

Financial consent order

Costs:

- **Our fees: £650 + VAT = £780**
- **Court fee: £50**
- **Total: £830**

What is included?

- Two meetings – one to advise and one to consider and sign draft Consent Order and complete Statement of Information
- Drafting or approval of Consent Order and Statement of Information
- Confirmation of advice and updates by letter
- Letter to your spouse or their solicitor
- Lodging documentation at court
- Final Order and closing letter

What is not included?

- Any negotiations or detailed advice in relation to financial matters
- Consideration of detailed financial disclosure
- Representation at court
- Dealing with a Pension Sharing Order (see supplementary fixed fee below)
- Work in connection with implementing the order.

When do I pay?

- £480 at first appointment
- £350 before documents are sent to court

What do you charge for pension sharing orders?

- There is a supplementary fixed fee of £150+VAT for preparing a pension sharing annex to implement a pension sharing order. This does not cover any work or costs involved in implementing the pension sharing order once it has been approved by the court.

IMPORTANT

The fixed fee may not apply where assets consist of more than one property and/or there is a business and/or where the agreement is unusually complex.

Advice in support of mediation

Our fees: £200 + VAT = £240

If you are discussing matters in mediation you may require some legal advice, both before the mediation starts to give you an idea of your rights and entitlements and after mediation meetings to advise on issues which have been discussed and proposals you are considering.

What is included?

- One meeting
- One telephone consultation
- Up to 4 letters

What is not included?

- The drafting of a court order or formal agreement
- Negotiations with the other party
- Collating and detailed consideration of information needed

When do I pay?

- £240 at first appointment

Other Options

If our fixed fee packages are not appropriate for your case we will give you an estimate of our charges on an hourly rate.

We will keep you up to date on the costs being incurred and provide regular interim bills so you are always aware of the progress of your case and the payments you need to make.

What we ask of you

Our agreement to carry out work for a fixed fee is on the basis that you will:

- Keep any appointments you make to see us
- Provide us with any information and documentation we need promptly and in order
- Let us know immediately if there is any related change of circumstances
- Provide us with clear and consistent instructions

If the other party does not co-operate this may affect our ability to continue to act on a fixed fee basis, but if this were to happen we would discuss it with you and find the best solution.

IMPORTANT

Any delay, whether caused by you or another party, unforeseen events or disputed issues will result in additional work and costs to those detailed in these packages.

We will advise you if this happens and provide you with an estimate of the likely additional costs.

In the event that we are carrying out work under one of the above fixed fee packages, and, for whatever reason, your case does not proceed or is not concluded, we will charge for the work carried out on your behalf using our hourly rates. If we apply the hourly rate and this exceeds the fixed fee rate provided, the fixed fee rate will be honoured.

Should there be any increase in court fees during the course of the matter we will notify you of the change and you will be responsible for payment of the increased fee.