

Six Pump Court Chambers

GRANT ARMSTRONG

Public Access – Financial Disputes in Divorce

Grant Armstrong 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. By “financial disputes arising out of divorce”, we mean where the parties cannot agree on financial matters during the process of obtaining, or following, a divorce. For example:

- How assets should be divided;
- Whether to sell the matrimonial home or other assets;
- Maintenance payments; and
- Pension sharing.

The fee rate for direct access work is likely to be in the region of £200-£250ph on a time basis. A capped fee can be agreed in advance depending on the work.

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

I may charge fixed fees, which means that you will be charged a set amount of money for the work. Below I have provided estimates based on the ranges of fixed fees for my work, where the parties have joint assets which are worth less than £300,000. All fees include VAT (where applicable).

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

Stage of case	Ranges of fixed fees (estimates)
Written advice on your financial dispute	Approx 5 hours (£200-£250ph)
Preparation of case, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting of any court documents	Approx 5 hours (£200-£250ph)

First appointment (first court hearing exchanging financial information)	£200-£250ph. Attendance at hearing quoted separately
Financial dispute resolution appointment (second court hearing to reach a financial settlement)	Approx £200-£250ph
First day of final hearing (if no settlement was reached in the financial dispute resolution appointment)	Approx £200-£250ph
Court appearances per day, after the first day of the final hearing	Approx £200-£250ph
Contact Us	
<p>All information is correct as of 1st January 2020, but fees are <u>estimates only</u>. For a quotation, please contact the clerks on 020 7797 8400 (or e-mail clerks@6pumpcourt.co.uk). Please also contact the clerks if you and your former partner have joint assets which are worth more than £300,000.</p>	

This example complies with the additional price and service transparency requirements as, in relation to the relevant Public Access service, it states:

- The pricing model (fixed fee, although other pricing models can be used. See the hourly rate example below);
- Indicative fees and the circumstances in which they may vary;
- Whether the fees include VAT (where applicable);
- Likely additional costs;
- The price information in the form of ranges for barristers in chambers (although price information can also be provided in the form of average fees for barristers in chambers, or in relation to individual barristers – see the mandatory rules on price transparency in section 2);

- The Public Access service in question and a description of the service, including a concise statement of the key stages (allowing consumers to sufficiently understand the service); and
- An indicative timescale for the key stages.

Hourly rate example

Stage of case	Ranges of hourly rates (estimates)
Written advice on your financial dispute	£200-£250ph, approximately 5 hours
Preparation of case, including meetings with you and assistance with drafting of any court documents	£200-£250ph, approximately 5 hours
First appointment (first court hearing exchanging financial information)	£200-£250ph approximately 5 hours Attendance at hearing quoted separately (approx. 4-6 hours)
Financial dispute resolution appointment (second court hearing to reach a financial settlement)	£200-£250ph approximately 6-8 hours
First day of final hearing (if no settlement was reached in the financial dispute resolution appointment)	£200-£250ph approximately 8-10 hours
Court appearances per day, after the first day of the final hearing	£200-£250ph approximately 10 hours

