

Family Help (Higher) In Care Proceedings

This scheme is designed to enable us to provide legal assistance in appropriate cases to those involved in Care Proceedings.

Family Help (Higher)

This scheme will allow us to assist parents and those with parental responsibility and to represent children when a Local Authority has issued proceedings.

Our Fees

Under this scheme we will be paid fixed fees from Legal Services Commission (LSC) as set out below:-

Representation of:-

- 1 child in the County Court - £2,761 (in the High Court - £3,672)
- 2+ children in the County Court - £4,142 (in the High Court - £5,508)
- 1 parent in the County Court - £3,589 (in the High Court - £4,773)
- 2 parents in the County Court - £4,486 (in the High Court - £5,966)
- Joined party in the County Court - £1,482 (in the High Court - £1,971)

However if, using the prescribed rates referred to below, the costs of your case are in excess of two times the standard fee that would normally be payable to us by the LSC for such matters we are entitled to claim for all work at the prescribed hourly rates.

Prescribed rates used to calculate the actual costs of the work carried out under Family Help (Higher) Scheme in Care Proceedings have been set at;

- Family Proceedings and County Court work Family Help (Higher) £64.90 per hour for work other than travel and waiting, which are paid at £32.45 per hour and Advocacy, which is paid at £71.50 per hour (except when behind Counsel when it is paid at £36.30). Routine letters and telephone calls are paid at the rate of £4.10 per item and routine letters in are

paid at £2.05.

- High Court work Family Help (Higher) £73.15 per hour for work other than travel and waiting, which are paid at £35.75 per hour and attending behind Counsel, which is paid at £41.25 per hour. Routine letters and telephone calls are paid at the rate of £4.70 per item and routine letters in are paid at £2.35.

Any and all disbursements are paid on top of this fixed fee as is VAT at the standard rate.

If you are represented by a member of the Law Society's Children Act Panel then an additional 15% can be claimed. When only the fixed fee is claimed this is allowed on all work completed whilst at Court, however, if the actual costs are paid then 15% can be claimed across the board.

Certificate Amount

The Full Certificate is generally granted in the sum of £5,000. This includes our costs, any disbursements and instruction of Counsel. It does not cover any VAT on these items which will be charged at the standard rate.

As the case progresses it may become necessary to increase the Certificate Limit. If this should become necessary you will be informed of the new amount.