

Legal Help In Non-Family Matters
(i.e. Wills (non-guardian) and Change of Name Deeds (adult))

This scheme is designed to enable us to provide legal assistance in appropriate cases. At the initial meeting we will assess if you are financially eligible for public funding. We are required to obtain evidence of your means and you will be asked to provide this before we can proceed.

Legal Help

The scope of this part of the scheme is limited to the giving of advice and assistance; it does not extend, for example, to the bringing or defending of court proceedings. So it will cover, for example, such things as initial advice and perhaps some letters on your behalf.

The Fixed Fees we receive for the above is £88.

Any disbursements incurred on your behalf are in addition to the fixed fee or actual costs we receive. VAT at the standard rate will also be charged where applicable.

Our Fees

Under this scheme we will be paid a fixed fee from Legal Services Commission (LSC). However if, using the prescribed rates referred to below, the costs of your case are in excess of three 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 the Legal are;

- Legal Help £48.75 per hour for work other than travelling, which is paid at £27.35 per hour.
- Routine letters and telephone calls are paid at the rate of £3.85 per item.

Please note that we are required by the LSC to close your file if we do not hear from you for a period of time. Our policy is to take that step if we have been without instructions from you for 1 month. However, this time does not start to run if we have agreed with you that we will place your matter on hold for a specified period until the end of that period. In addition, in the event of you requiring assistance again at some later stage, you are of course free to contact us and, providing you are still eligible, we will be able to ask you to sign a further Legal Help/Family Help (Lower) form and re-open the matter.