

Legal Help & Family Help (Lower) In Child Protection Cases

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

Legal Help

The scope of this part of the scheme is limited to the giving of advice and assistance. So it will cover, for example, such things as initial advice and perhaps some letters on your behalf. Attendance at a child protection conference will only be covered in exceptional circumstances.

The Fixed Fee we receive for the above is £147.

Family Help (Lower)

This part of the scheme will allow us to assist parents and those with parental responsibility when a Local Authority has advised of their intention to issue Care Proceedings. It allows us to liaise with the Local Authority and negotiate on your behalf to try and resolve disputes.

As proceedings are not covered under either part of this scheme we will discuss alternative Legal Services Commission funding with you if proceedings are instigated.

The Fixed Fee we receive for the above (instead of or as well as the £147 stated above is) £405.

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

Our Fees

Under both parts of this scheme we will be paid fixed fees 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 Help/Family Help (Lower) Scheme in Care Proceedings have been set at;

- Legal Help £51.05 per hour for work other than travelling, which is paid at £28.60 per hour. Routine letters and telephone calls are paid at the rate of £4.05 per item.
- Family Help (Lower) £53.60 per hour for work other than travelling, which is paid at £30.00 per hour. Routine letters and telephone calls are paid at the rate of £4.20 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.