



Berwins- helping to reduce the financial headache of divorce

At Berwins we will do our best to guide you through the stressful period of divorce or relationship breakdown with sympathy and efficiency, easing the burden and strain wherever possible.

Our highly accredited team of experts have helped hundreds of people through situations similar to yours so we do understand that your finances come high up the list of worries.

Berwins will give you an estimate of costs at the outset and are committed to keeping fees as low as possible and within budget. We can also provide a range of payment plans to help you manage the cost.

We know how much our work should cost, but we also know how costs can creep up. Here are a few tips our clients have found useful:

Try and keep things friendly: less arguments = less costs

It's particularly useful where children are concerned to try and agree arrangements between you if you can. This helps to keep costs down because you've done the leg work. Children also see their parents 'getting on' together which is very positive for them. Remember, we're always on hand if this becomes difficult.

Be prepared

Try and make a list of questions that can be sent to us before a meeting or that you can use if you need to call us. Being prepared helps us to get to the facts and concerns quickly so that we can deal with them quickly.

What's the best way for us to correspond?

You may find that face to face meetings are sometimes useful or necessary but they do tend to take up more time and become more costly. We will try to telephone or email as much as possible to keep your costs down.

Important letters, such as proposed settlement terms, will always be sent to you for your approval. If you feel that you need to see all correspondence before it goes out, be aware that this can often become quite expensive. Try and be happy to leave us with the routine stuff – we have your best interests at heart.

The 'other side'

If lawyers on the other side are not 'Resolution Lawyers' or your former partner is a 'litigant in person' (acting without a legal representative) costs will escalate. Unfortunately, there is a limit to how much we can control this, particularly if we are dealing with an un-cooperative or argumentative solicitor. With 'litigants in person' we might have to prepare all the Court Bundles because the litigant in person has no expertise in this area, which seems unfair but the court requires us to assume this responsibility. In these circumstances, we will try and keep costs down by using more junior lawyers where possible but would recommend that your partner finds a 'Resolution' lawyer or better still, a collaboratively trained lawyer.

You might find these links helpful:

www.resolution.org.uk/memberSearch

www.harrogatecollaborativelaw.co.uk

www.resolution.org.uk/findacollaborativelawyer

Specialist help

Where there are complex business or pension interests, we would advise using colleagues in other teams (specialising in company matters and tax etc.), third party experts (such as actuaries) or barristers for court proceedings. Sometimes people are understandably reluctant to incur what seem to be additional costs, but getting specialist advice at an early stage usually saves costs in the long run. We can also point you in the right direction if you feel in need of additional emotional support and have good links with counsellors and life coaches who are well placed to provide this to you.

Feeling better? Good!

Let's work together to keep your legal costs under control so that you can get on with your life.

Berwins – the sensible approach to family law