

## **CHARGES**

### First meeting

We usually offer a first appointment free of charge. The purpose of the first meeting is to provide you with a general overview of your case.

If specific detailed advice or work is required at the first meeting, there will be a charge for this and we will provide you with fixed fee quote prior to the meeting.

In some cases we can offer **fixed fees**<sup>1</sup>:

- **Divorce** (where client is the petitioner) £750 plus VAT (plus court fees of £550).
- **Divorce** (where client is the respondent) £350 plus VAT.
- **Managed divorce** (where the case is conducted by the client and SLS advise in the background) £350 plus VAT.
- **Consent order** (drafting up a negotiated agreement): £750 plus VAT
- **Consent order (complex)** (drafting up a negotiated agreement) - £1250 plus VAT
- **Consent order and submission to court** (drafting up a negotiated agreement and submitting it to the court) £1,500 - £2,000 plus VAT (depending on the complexity of the case).
- **Separation agreement** (drafting up a negotiated agreement into a legal separation deed) £1,500 plus VAT
- **Separation agreement (complex)** (drafting up a negotiated agreement into a legal separation deed) - £2,500 plus VAT.

### Clients on a retainer

Clients are charged between £250 and £100 per hour plus VAT depending on the seniority of the fee earner carrying out the work, and the nature and complexity of the case. Specific costs estimates will be given for each individual case but as a general guide:

- **Financial settlements** negotiated by SLS, including drafting the consent order: an average case costs in the region of £5,000 plus VAT
- **Court proceedings** (financial or children cases): an average case costs between £7,000 and £30,000 plus VAT (not including barristers' fees and other disbursements).

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<sup>1</sup> fixed fees are not appropriate for particularly complex cases. We also reserve the right to revise the cost estimate, if it becomes apparent as the case progresses, that a fixed fee is no longer appropriate, because the case is more complex than originally envisaged.