



Ellisons Fixed Fee Divorce

Ellisons Solicitors offers a divorce for a fixed fee so that you have the certainty of knowing exactly how much it is going to cost you.

Petitioner - £1,000 including VAT and disbursements as follows:

Our fees (incl. VAT)	£660.00
Court Petition fee	£300.00
Court Decree Absolute fee	<u>£ 40.00</u>
Total	£1,000.00

Respondent - £550 including VAT

What work is included in the fixed fee?

1. Your initial £100 fixed fee consultation.
2. Corresponding with you and your spouse or spouse's solicitors in relation to the divorce.
3. Drafting divorce documentation:

Petitioner: Divorce petition
Statement of Arrangements for Children
Reconciliation Certificate
Application for directions for trial of petition
Affidavit in support of Petition
Application for Decree Absolute
Decree Absolute

Respondent: Acknowledgement of Service

4. Checking Court papers:

Certificate of Entitlement to Divorce
Decree Nisi
Decree Absolute

What is not included in the fixed fee?

1. Very rarely, a Respondent may decide to defend (i.e. contest) divorce proceedings. The fixed fee does not include the cost involved in acting for you in relation to defended divorce proceedings.
2. Sometimes it is necessary to arrange for divorce papers to be personally served on the Respondent. It is unusual to have to do this, but when it happens there are likely to be process server's fees which need to be met in addition to the fixed fee.

3. The cost of amending divorce papers after they have been lodged with the Court, for example where you wish to add new allegations of unreasonable behaviour or allege a different ground for the divorce.
4. If you are the Respondent, the cost incurred in applying to the Court on notice for Decree Absolute.
5. Dealing with any issues relating to property, finances, domestic violence or children, including any hearings ordered by the Court under section 41 Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.
6. The fee charged by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages or church for a certified copy of your marriage certificate (usually £7.50).
7. Fees charged by another solicitor or other commissioner for oaths for swearing an affidavit in support of divorce petition. (This can usually be done at the Court by a Court Officer free of charge.)
8. The cost involved in locating your spouse if you do not know where he or she is living.
9. Applications for deemed or substituted service of the Petition or to omit your address from the Petition.
10. Representation at Court in relation to the divorce. This very rarely necessary.
11. Enforcing an order for costs against your spouse.
12. Defending a claim for costs made against you by your spouse.

What if I change my mind and decide not to go ahead with the divorce?

In those circumstances we would charge you for all work and disbursements incurred until that point on a time recorded basis by applying our hourly charging rate (please see Client Care Notice). Your bill for the divorce will not exceed the fixed fee and may be less than the fixed fee.

When do I pay?

Petitioners:

- (a) £100 at our initial consultation.
- (b) £350 on confirming that you wish to instruct us to prepare a divorce petition.
- (c) £300 when the divorce petition is ready to be issued at Court.
- (d) £250 on pronouncement of Decree Nisi.

Respondents:

- (a) £100 at our initial consultation.
- (b) £450 on pronouncement of Decree Nisi.

Note: In the event that HM Courts Service increases the Court fees payable by you, we reserve the right to increase the fixed fee by that amount.

What if my spouse is ordered to pay my costs?

If your spouse complies with any order for costs, any costs recovered will be deducted from your fixed fee. However, if it is necessary to undertake work to enforce an order for costs against your spouse, this is not covered by the fixed fee.

What if there is a dispute about property, finances, domestic violence or children?

Ellisons has a very experienced team of solicitors who regularly handle these types of cases. Due to the complex nature of these disputes, we regret that it is not possible to deal with these issues on a fixed fee basis. All work undertaken on these issues has to be charged at our hourly rate. At the outset of your case, we will give you an estimate of the costs that you are likely to incur in relation to these disputes.

What if my spouse and I have reached a financial agreement, but we need solicitors to handle the paperwork?

It is vital that financial agreements are recorded in either a Consent Order or a Deed of Separation. We normally undertake this kind of work on a time recorded basis, but we may be able at our discretion to undertake such work on a fixed fee basis. We usually undertake conveyancing work necessary to implement an agreement on a fixed fee basis. The fee will depend upon precisely what is involved.