



AFFORDABLE OPTIONS - PAY AS YOU GO / FACE TO FACE

Our aim is simple: “To recognise and respond to our clients’ needs with prompt, clear and practical advice, based on a thorough knowledge of their situation”.

Why Paris Smith

Paris Smith is a family team with an unrivalled reputation and is regularly praised by independent expert publications.

We understand the kinds of problem and the concerns you may have as a result of the breakdown of your marriage or relationship.

We also understand that you may not wish to hand over major life decisions to lawyers, or that it can sometimes be difficult to meet legal fees. Our new affordable options can help with this.

Pay as you go and Face to face are two schemes we offer to help people who want legal advice but do not want full representation. For those who are confident enough to deal with most family issues but need support on the more complex matters, this might be an alternative option.

Pay as you go

- You will run your case yourself and if there are court proceedings, you will be on the court record and will retain responsibility for your part of proceedings. We will not correspond with anyone on your behalf.
- We will be on hand throughout your matter, whether or not there are court proceedings, to provide advice and guidance on any issue or document.

- We will only do the work you ask us for and will only charge for that work.
- We will ask you to credit your account with a sum of money and we will work to that limit, so you never have to worry about costs spiralling out of control.
- We will send you a bill at least each month when work is carried out, or when your credit is about to expire.

Face to Face

Alternatively, you may wish to limit our role to advising in face to face meetings. If so, the above terms will still apply, but we would not require you to deposit money with us. Instead you would pay the cost of each meeting on the day. You choose when you want to see us and the matters on which you need help.

Marriage or relationship breakdown

We will discuss with you the options of legal separation or divorce.

To obtain a divorce you have to show that your marriage has broken down irretrievably. You do this by proving either adultery, unreasonable behaviour, desertion, two years separation (with consent) or five years separation. We will explain precisely how the procedures work.

Finances

If your relationship has broken down you will naturally



be concerned about your financial position. If you have children there will be an added concern. The financial aspects may be complicated and could involve capital assets, a division of property, pension options and maintenance entitlement.

Whether or not you are able to agree some or all of these areas with your spouse or partner, we strongly recommend that you seek our advice at the very earliest opportunity. This will ensure that you make the right decisions to protect your future security.

Pensions

This is a complex area, where you will need careful advice as to entitlement. We have that specialism and work regularly with other experts to address your needs.

Civil partnership

We are at the forefront of developing this aspect of law. If your civil partnership comes to an end we can advise you on procedure and entitlement and have specialist knowledge of 'same sex' relationships.

Children

We recognise that disputes concerning children can create emotional turmoil. We take care to fully understand each particular case before advising you on the best course of action. It will be our aim to assist you in achieving the fairest possible solution. Our separate 'Children' factsheet sets out our service in more detail.

Emergency remedies

No one should have to tolerate a violent spouse or partner. If you are the victim of domestic abuse do not delay in seeking our help. The Courts have the power to protect you in a variety of circumstances and can advise on the protection you need. If your spouse is dealing with finances in an attempt to prejudice your claims we can tell you the steps which can be taken to protect those assets and ensure a level playing field.

Find out more

Please contact us to discuss your requirements or to find out more.



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