

Reaston Drummond LAW

How much will it cost?

Generally it is not possible to give you an exact estimate of what your legal costs will be when court proceedings are involved.

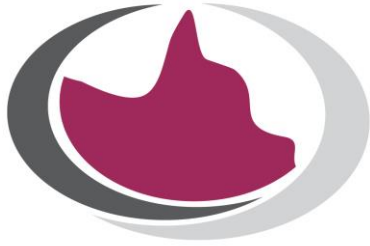
An initial consultation with us costs \$330. This must be paid in cash on the day of your appointment, or prior to your appointment by direct deposit. After speaking to you and obtaining all relevant information, we will be in a better position to give you an estimate of what your costs will be.

When court proceedings are involved, we will generally give you an estimate of costs up to certain stages such as the first return date, interim hearing, conciliation conference or hearing.

The cost of any court litigation may be significantly affected by a range of factors which are not apparent or predictable prior to the matter commencing. These include:

- the efficiency of obtaining instructions from the client and other parties;
- the extent to which the client assists in the transaction;
- action taken by opposing parties in the transaction;
- which experts and barrister (if any) are engaged;
- how long it takes to finalise the transaction;
- the complexity of the case and the difficulty and novelty of issues involved;
- the number and importance of documents prepared or read in respect of the case;
- the time spent on the case; and
- the research and consideration of questions of law and fact required.

As a general rule, each party in family law matters must pay their own costs of going to court. The court will only make an order for costs when it believes there are circumstances that justify it making a costs order. The matters a court takes into account in awarding costs include:



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- the financial circumstances of each of the parties to the proceedings;
- whether any party to the proceedings is in receipt of assistance by way of legal aid and, if so, the terms of the grant of that assistance to that party;
- the conduct of the parties;
- whether the proceedings were necessitated by the failure of a party to the proceedings to comply with previous orders of the court;
- whether any party to the proceedings has been wholly unsuccessful in the proceedings;
- whether either party to the proceedings has made an offer in writing to the other party to the proceedings to settle the proceedings and the terms of any such offer; and
- such other matters as the court considers relevant.

If costs are ordered they may be calculated in accordance with the applicable scale of fees (inclusive of GST) for the court you are in or upon another scale. An order by a court that your costs be paid will not necessarily cover the whole of your legal costs.

If you engage our firm to act on your behalf after your initial appointment, we will provide you with our costs agreement and disclosure notice which sets out in detail, our basis of charging along with our estimate of costs.