

Your Legal Questions

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Q I separated from my girlfriend last Summer. Despite the fact that my former girlfriend said that she wanted our separation to be amicable she has now stopped me from seeing my three year old daughter. I think this is because she has found out that I am now in a new relationship. I am on a low income and have heard that Legal Aid is no longer available for me to get legal advice about this problem. What do I need to do?

A You are right that from April 2013 Legal Aid will no longer be available for cases such as yours other than cases where there is domestic violence or child abuse. To help people manage their legal affairs in a more effective way after the changes come into effect we have developed a new, more flexible service for clients, with the ability to Pay as you Go.

You pay for your advice as you go along and only for elements that you cannot do yourself. There are no unexpected charges – what you use is what you pay for on the day at the appropriate hourly rate.

The first step is our fixed fee appointment which is provided at the discounted rate of £150 plus VAT. This will give you advice about the options available to you.

We will be helping you with each step in pursuing your case eg helping you to prepare documents if you apply to the Court. You act 'in person' – you are the first point of contact and the contact address that you give is your own address so all communication about your case goes direct to you.

You only see or use your solicitor when you really need to so you know when you will have to pay for any help, advice or representation at Court and can budget for this.

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