



Information Sheet: Access to funding

At Alsters Kelley, we recognise that the question of how to fund your family law case can be a difficult one. It can often be stressful and sometimes practically difficult to access financial resources and this comes at a time when you are already facing significant emotional and financial pressures.

While we remain committed to offering our clients access to justice through the public funding (formerly Legal Aid) system - and are proud to be one of the few firms in Warwickshire still offering this support - we realise that changes to the eligibility criteria mean that clients are increasingly finding it difficult to access public funding.

Likewise, for some clients, financial assets may actually be tied up as part of the dispute and, as such, cannot be released until settlement is reached.

For that reason, we have joined with Hampshire Trust Private Bankers - a wholly owned subsidiary of National Counties Building Society - to provide a family funding scheme.

If eligible for this scheme, clients are able to pay interest only on the outstanding solicitors fees while proceedings are still taking place. The full and final sum is only due once proceedings have been concluded.

Once you have opened a family funding account with Hampshire Trust, you simply instruct your solicitor to charge through the account and Hampshire Trust will then make the payment to Alsters Kelley directly on your behalf.

Every time you use the account to make a payment we will send you details of the transaction and confirmation of the outstanding balance and you will continue to receive copy invoices and detailed cost estimates so you are able to keep complete control of your finances.

In all cases, we provide realistic cost estimates, usually invoice monthly and provide full transparency so that clients are able to confidently budget for the payment of solicitors fees.

While this scheme offers clients great flexibility and peace of mind, it is important to remember that the full and final sum will need to be paid at close of proceedings. For this reason, it is important that both you and your solicitor are confident that the resulting



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financial settlement will provide you with sufficient capital to pay off all costs incurred in dealing with your matter.

The Hampshire Trust family funding scheme is therefore not suitable for all clients and is, of course, only one of the options available. Please do speak to one of the members of the family team to find out which is the most appropriate solution for your individual circumstances.

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