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### Fixed Price

first interview for initial advice

Likely to take no more than 30 minutes, we have a fixed price for this first interview. At this meeting we'll listen carefully to your situation, wishes and then explain, in simple terms, what lies ahead, potential costs and how we charge for our work. If you instruct us to act for you, we will deduct this payment from our final bill.

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### Preparing the divorce petition

We'll prepare the divorce petition on your behalf and if there are children concerned, we'll also prepare a statement of arrangements for them. These documents will then be lodged with the court, together with the original marriage certificate and court fee.

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### Directions for a trial

On receipt of the acknowledgement of service, the other party will need to apply for what is known as directions for trial (special procedure). This involves the completion of an affidavit (a sworn statement) and your application to move the divorce forward. The documents will be lodged with the court for consideration by a District Judge. If the other party has indicated that they intend to defend the divorce then they'll be given a further 21 days to prepare a detailed response. Defended divorce proceedings, resulting in a fully contested hearing (where

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### Issue the proceedings

Once the court receives the documents, they will issue your application - and allocate a case number. The documents will be stamped and sent to the other party, together with an acknowledgement of service. The other party will have 7 days from the date of receipt to return the form to the court, which will confirm if they wish to defend the divorce or are agreeable to it. This is then forwarded to you.

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### Decree nisi

The decree nisi is confirmation that the Judge has given approval for the divorce to go ahead. Once the other party has sent the papers to the court, the District Judge will consider them and if in order, a certificate confirming the date and time for when the decree nisi will be pronounced. No one is required to attend this hearing, unless there is an issue relating to cost orders.

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### Payment of our fees

The cost of an undefended divorce (where the other party is not contesting the divorce) is £650 excluding court fees.

Payment is made in two stages – we give you a bill for half of it at the start of the case and the second half is paid at decree nisi stage.

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### Decree absolute

Once you have received the decree nisi certificate and the certificate referring to the arrangements for the children, we can apply for the decree absolute six weeks and one day later. This will end the marriage.

.....> both parties will be questioned and provide evidence of their divorce issues) are rare and we're usually capable of reaching a compromise beforehand.

**Ready for the next step?**

We've tried our best to illustrate the normal stages involved in divorce proceedings – but please note that every case is different.

We'll always advise you individually and make you aware of any extra stages required where we can.