



## family law info sheet

Changing Lawyers / Solicitors



A client can always change lawyers. It is vital that you have confidence in your lawyer.

If you have concerns it can sometimes be a good idea to discuss your worries with your lawyer. Some lawyers are more open than others.

If you are not happy, change lawyers. Family law matters are just too important and difficult without there being a good relationship with your lawyer.

**If signed a cost Agreement?**



Even if a cost agreement has been signed a person can still swap lawyers.

**When?**



**Lawyers can be changed at any stage. But if an important court date is soon, it may be too late for another lawyer to come up to speed.**

**If I owe my lawyer money?**



If the current lawyer is owed money they can keep a client's file and documents until paid. But this doesn't stop another lawyer from taking over the case.

Some law firms will (and should) still transfer a client's file to another solicitor if the original lawyers get sufficient security or guarantee that the funds owing to them will be paid.

**Will it cost to change lawyers?**



**Your new lawyer will need to read all the past letters and documents. If the case has been going for a while this can be a lot of reading.**

**But Gordon Lawyers do not charge for this (most lawyers do).**

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**Disclaimer – this brochure is a guide only on limited legal issues. Legal advice on your individual circumstances should be obtained.**

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### Don't tell your lawyer this...



During your family law matter your lawyer should give you copies of all letters and documents. This includes all letters and documents received from the other party. If they don't, ask for them. Also, it is a good idea if you keep copies of all documents you give to your lawyer.

If you have all of these documents to give to your new lawyer that would normally be enough for your new lawyer to carry on with the case.

This doesn't mean you don't have to pay your old lawyer, it just means your new lawyer can continue your case without delay.

### Do I have to see my old lawyer?



**No. Your new lawyer will write to your old lawyer for you.**

### Not Sure?



If not sure what to do, make an appointment to talk to the lawyer you are thinking of changing to. No need to tell them you are thinking of swapping. You can say you just want a second opinion. If you think you would be better with the new lawyer then change.

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