



family law info sheet

What Gordon Lawyers' don't charge



Lawyers and Solicitors differ widely for what work they actually charge to their clients. Many things happen in a solicitor's office from reception to court room. Some lawyers charge for every step. Gordon Lawyers do not. This can make a large difference to the legal bill.

Work Item	What Gordon Lawyers Charge	What Other Lawyers Charge*
Family law first consultation fee	Flat rate of \$297. The fee is the same whether the consultation goes for 1 hour or 2 hours. Includes a follow up general letter of advice. A reduced fee applies if consultation is short.	?
For work and time spent by solicitor after first consultation (if instructed to act)	Competitive hourly rate. Estimates of legal fees are provided. See the Cost Agreement for full details	Varies considerable between solicitors
Time spent by Para Legal staff	Only genuine para-legal time is charged. This is time spent on tasks requiring legal knowledge, but saves solicitor time and in turn saves the client costs.	?
Secretarial Work	Not Charged	?
Photocopying	Not Charged	?
Sending and Receiving Faxes	Not Charged	?
Printing	Not Charged	?
Office Sundries eg telephone call costs, regular post charges	Not Charged	?
Typing letters and documents	Not Charged	?
Courtesy calls (eg to let client know a letter is ready to be collected)	Not Charged	?
Emails that only attach a letter	Not Charged	?
EFTPOS Fees	Not Charged	?
Drawing Cheques	Not Charged	?
Storage of File	Not Charged	?
File memos	Not Charged	?
File set up and maintenance charges	Not Charged	?
Inter office consultations and emails	Not Charged	?
Legal Research when needed	Not Charged	?
Reading a letter received in the mail that has already been received by fax or email	Not Charged	?
Extra charge for complex matters	Not Charged	?
Solicitor checking a letter after it has been typed.	Not Charged	?

Disclaimer – this brochure is a general guide only. Legal advice on your individual circumstances should be obtained.

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Travel or waiting time of solicitor	Only charged at para-legal rate not solicitor rate	?
Interest on Accounts	Only charged in extreme circumstances of non-payment of fees	?
Advice on legal costs options	Gordon Lawyers offer 30 minute free consultation to discuss legal fees	?
GST- charges clearly stated	Yes	?
Disbursements – these are charges by third parties, such as city agents, title searches, valuations etc	Charged at cost. Pre approval from client sought for costs above \$300 or as otherwise agreed	?
Express Post & Registered Mail	Only post office charges	?
Regularly charges less time than actually spent	Yes	?
Monthly Fee budgets to be met	None	?
Extensive precedent database	Gordon Lawyers have developed their own customised family law database of precedents that reduces time spent by the solicitor and saves the client money.	?

An Example....

Below is an example of what it could cost for a 2 page letter compared to what Gordon Lawyers would charge (based on same hourly rate of \$400 per hour)...

Work Item Example	Gordon Lawyers	Solicitor B
Prepare a 2 page letter to the solicitor for other party that takes 30 minutes of the solicitor's time to draft.	\$200	\$200
Secretary Typing letter. It usually takes a secretary longer to prepare and type a letter than it does for the solicitor to draft the letter, but say it takes 30 minutes	Nil	\$100
Checking and signing letter by lawyer, allow 10 Minutes	Nil	\$60
Printing the Letter (with copies). Can be \$1 per page	Nil	\$4
Faxing the Letter	Nil	\$5
Sending a copy of the letter to the client for their records	Nil	\$30
Mail costs and other ancillary costs, 5%	Nil	\$20
TOTAL	\$200	\$419
	Gordon Lawyers	Solicitor B

All lawyers charge differently. It is important to closely look at the cost disclosure documents that each lawyer needs to give to their client and review each account. If not sure ask.