



CAROLINE HELY HUTCHINSON Barrister
Family Law Chambers

info@familylawchambers.co.uk
+44 (0)1491 875449

REGULATED BY THE BAR STANDARDS BOARD

FACT SHEET

About me

Caroline is a sole practitioner barrister advising and representing clients in all aspects of Family Law and related matters. She can be instructed under the Public Access scheme (see below) and has Litigation Authorisation. However, as a sole practitioner, she can only manage a small number of cases at any one time, so her ability to accept work will depend on her being able to offer the necessary availability to the client.

Contact us

Any solicitor (or other practising lawyer), Licensed Access client or member of the public (under the Public Access scheme) is invited to contact the Practice Manager who can arrange an initial consultation with Caroline where clients can explore whether she is the right person to be representing them, and what the likely costs would be for the work in question. This initial liaison would not involve the provision of legal advice by Caroline, and would not be charged.

Fees

Caroline cannot offer any advice without a signed Client Agreement Letter and this letter will set out the fees as agreed between us. Once instructed, her normal charge out rate is £220 per hour which is not currently subject to VAT.

Owing to her hourly fee rate, it is not cost effective for clients to instruct Caroline in cases where, on divorce, the parties have joint assets under £300,000 or Inheritance Act claims where the estate is valued at less than £300,000. Accordingly, Caroline does not take on such cases.

Timescales

Timescales for cases may vary widely depending on factors such as Caroline's availability, the type and complexity of the case, the other side's approach / response times and Court waiting times.

Public Access

If you are a member of the public, the Bar Standard Board's Public Access Guidance for Lay Clients is enclosed (there is also a link on our website). <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/uploads/assets/20f0db2a-a40c-4af9-95b1b9557ad748e9/Public-Access-Guidance-for-Lay-Clients.pdf> This will help you understand how the Public Access scheme works, and explains how you can use it to instruct Caroline directly.

Regulatory and Complaints Information

Caroline is regulated by the Bar Standards Board. You can search the Barristers' Register on the Bar Standard Board's website :

<https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/for-the-public/search-a-barristers-record/the-barristers-register.html>

This shows (1) whether a barrister has a current Practising Certificate, and (2) whether a barrister has any disciplinary findings, which are published on the Bar Standard Board's website in accordance with their policy. Alternatively, you can contact the Bar Standards Board on 020 7611 1444 to ask about this (or email: ContactUs@BarStandardsBoard.org.uk)

Our complaints procedure is set out in every Client Agreement Letter and is available on request.

If you are not satisfied after completing our complaints procedures, you have the right to escalate your complaint to the Legal Ombudsman (LeO) - the independent body which can help you if you have complained to your lawyer and are not happy with their response. The LeO website sets out the procedure : <https://www.legalombudsman.org.uk/?portfolio=complaint-form-legal>

The LeO can also be contacted by telephone: 0300 555 0333 or email: enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk

Any complaint normally needs to be made to the LeO within six months of our final response.

You can search the decision data on the LeO's website to review the Ombudsman's decisions in the previous 12 months, and whether the LeO required the provider to give the consumer a remedy on the LeO's website.