



Family Law Fact Sheet

PLEASE NOTE: This appointment is for initial advice only. At this appointment we will not provide advice on the percentage split you may be entitled to.

To assist with your appointment, please observe the following:

- Complete the Family Law data sheet enclosed in clear block printing and bring this sheet with you when you come for the appointment.
- Payment of \$40.00 (\$30.00 with eligible concession card) for the appointment is required at the time of arrival before you see the solicitor.
- Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment as there is more paperwork to complete.
- Your appointment is only 20 minutes, so please ensure you have completed the data sheet prior to the appointment.
- If you wish to cancel your appointment, please call the branch at which you made the appointment as soon as possible. If you do not cancel your appointment and do not attend, you will be sent an account.
- If you are late for your appointment, you may have to re-schedule as appointments cannot be extended.
- Citizens Advice Bureau will assist with simple Family Law matters only. If we are unable to assist, you will be informed at the appointment and referred to another agency.
- The solicitor will advise you at the first appointment whether you require a Family Court document. If we can assist you, the solicitor will provide you with the necessary forms.
- Once you have completed the form(s), you will need to make another appointment to see the lawyer. There will be a \$40.00 (\$30.00 with eligible concession card) appointment fee for each additional appointment (in addition to the fee for any documents).
- Payment for documents will be required at your second appointment – your lawyer will advise the fee.

Please note the following important matters:

- Parties must be separated for at least 12 months and 1 day before making a divorce application.
- People who have been married must make an application in the Family Court of WA (or have their property settlement finalised by Consent Orders made by the Family Court) within 12 months of divorce.
- If this is not done you need to seek special permission to file an application out of time.
- People who have not been married but have lived in a de facto relationship must file an application in the Family Court (or have their property settlement finalised by Consent Orders made by the Family Court) within 2 years of separation.
- If you do not file an application in the Family Court within 2 years of separation, you need to seek special permission to file an application out of time.
- To make an application in the Family Court, people in a de facto relationship must have lived together for at least 2 years.
- If you were in a de facto relationship for less than 2 years, you may still be able to make an application to the Family Court if there is a child of the relationship or the applicant made substantial contribution during the relationship and it would be prejudicial not to grant you leave. You should seek advice from your solicitor if your de facto relationship was less than 2 years' duration.