Cognitive Law

Funding Options for Legal Services

Private Retainers

Fixed Fees

Fixed fees can be for part of the matter, for the whole of the matter, or for a particular area of practice. This type of funding provides greater certainty and the ability to budget.

Hourly Rates

Time is recorded in 6-minute units, and the client is charged on a time spent basis.

Legal Aid

Only available in limited types of matters and will depend on various factors such as the area of law and the client's own personal and financial circumstances.

Third Party / Crowd Funding

A client's legal costs are paid by someone other than themselves.

Crowd funding is more common in cases that involve the public interest. Funders may receive some of their contributions back for example if costs are recovered from an opponent, but will never profit from the funding.

Damages based agreements (DBAs)

%

Client will only be liable to pay their solicitor if they recover damages in their case.

The amount the client is expected to pay will be calculated as a percentage of the damages recovered.

Legal Expenses Insurance

Also known as family legal protection and is a type of insurance you can purchase alongside your home insurance.

This may protect against the costs of being sued or making a claim against someone, depending on the policy wording.

After The Event (ATE) Insurance

£

ATE insurance is a litigation insurance product that can be bought after the event, which provides protection against the financial exposure of having to pay an opponent's legal costs if the insured client is unsuccessful in their legal proceedings.

Trade Union Funding

Some trade unions will offer schemes which allow members to get advice and representation funded by the union.

Conditional Fee Agreements (CFAs)

Client's fees to be payable only in specified circumstances, usually meaning the client only pays if their case is successful.

A solicitor may also be entitled to a 'success fee' which is an agreed percentage of their normal fees payable by the client.