

...helping you  
move forward

Where a party makes an application for financial provision through the Courts, this is known as an application for Ancillary Relief. For your reference we have produced a guide outlining the process of making an application for Ancillary Relief.

## **Making the Application**

Either spouse can apply for Ancillary Relief once divorce proceedings have commenced by completing and sending to the Court a form known as 'Form A.' There is a Court fee of £210.



## **Notice of First Appointment**

The Court issues the Form A and sets a date for the First Appointment Hearing. Notice of this is in 'Form C' and both Form A and Form C are sent to the Respondent within 4 days.



## **Financial Disclosure**

Both parties must complete and swear a detailed form with documents attached to show their assets, income and liabilities. This is called a 'Form E.' The parties must exchange their Form E's and lodge them with the Court at least 35 days before the First Appointment. There is a continuing duty of full and frank disclosure, so information may need updating.



## **Preparing for the First Appointment**

At least 14 days before the First Appointment both parties must file and serve the following:

Chronology of Events  
Statement of Relevant Issues  
Questionnaire/Request for Further Information

14 days before the First Appointment both parties need to file and serve a form to state whether or not they are in a position to treat the First Appointment as a Financial Dispute Resolution Hearing, 'an FDR'. Before the First Appointment, each party must also provide a 'Form H' estimating their legal costs up to and including the hearing.





### **The First Appointment**

Both parties attend the Court with their solicitor/barrister.

At the First Appointment the Judge will:

- consider which questions in each questionnaire should be answered and give directions in relation to the preparation and progression of the case, for example:
  - the time allowed to reply to the questionnaires;
  - the appointment of experts to deal with valuations of property;
  - and setting a date for the Financial Dispute Resolution Hearing.



### **Preparing for the FDR**

The Applicant must file with the Court details of any proposals for settlement at least 7 days before the FDR.

Both parties will file and serve a further 'Form H' costs schedule to show all costs incurred.



### **The FDR Hearing**

You will be represented by your solicitor/barrister.

The aim is to allow for there to be negotiation between the parties and their representatives to see whether live issues can be reduced or resolved, and whether a settlement can be reached. In addition, the Judge is likely to express a view on what they feel would be an appropriate settlement.

#### **Agreement**

If the parties reach an agreement they can ask the Judge to approve a Consent Order to encompass the terms of the settlement.

#### **No Agreement**

The Judge has the power to adjourn to another FDR Hearing where appropriate, or they will make other directions and fix a date for the Final Hearing.



### **Preparing for the Final Hearing**

Directions must be complied with. The Applicant must file with the Court a Statement of Proposals for settlement at least 14 days prior to the Final Hearing.

The Respondent must file with Court their Statement of Proposals 7 days thereafter.



### **The Final Hearing**

Both parties will attend the hearing and present evidence to a Judge. Both parties will be questioned by their own representative and the other party's representative.

The Judge will consider the evidence, give his or her judgement, and make a final order.