

# Questions to ask Solicitors when seeking legal advice

## CHILDREN'S MATTERS:

1. How long until your first court date?
2. How long until my matter will be heard by a Judge (not a Registrar) When is the final hearing likely to start?
3. Will a Family Report be required?
4. How long until a final judgement is handed down?
5. What can I expect to happen on the first court date?
  - a. How long and how much will it cost in legal fees, application fees etc to get to the first court date?
  - b. What documents will need to be prepared?
  - c. Will a Barrister be briefed?
6. What does your Solicitor recommend should happen in the interim ie while this matter is proceeding through the Court? How will access be managed?
7. What is the approximate cost per letter of a Solicitor lead negotiation?

## FINANCIAL MATTERS:

8. Percentage **range** i.e. the likely percentage range (worst case to best case) of the asset pool I am likely to get should this matter be determined by the Court having regard to all the relevant factors?
9. How long until my matter will be heard by a Judge (not a Registrar) When is the final hearing likely to start?
10. How long until judgement is handed down?
11. What can I expect to happen on the first court date?
  - (a) How long and how much will it cost in legal fees, application fees etc. to get to the first court date?
  - (b) What documents need to be prepared?
  - (c) Will a barrister be briefed?
12. What does your Solicitor recommend should happen in the interim - while this matter is proceeding through the Court? How will your family's financial needs be met?
13. What is the approximate cost per letter of a Solicitor lead negotiation?