

Changes to the Care Case Fee Scheme for VHCCs registered after 01 October 2015

Post 1 st October 2015	Pre 1 st October 2015
A new form has been created to combine the CCFS case plan and Claim1 form. This is to remove the duplication from completing two separate forms and should reduce rejects and delays in payment. This is called the CCFS Form.	The CCFS case plan and a Claim1 on conclusion need to be completed.
CCFS Forms can be submitted at any point and we will aim to issue a contract on the first submission. A further CCFS Form does not need to be submitted until the case concludes, however, solicitors can submit CCFS Forms if they require an increase to the financial limit.	A case plan needs to be submitted within 4 weeks and further plans needed to be submitted in advance of carrying out the work.
Certain sections of the CCFS form can be left blank until payment is needed on conclusion. An example of a completed form is available on the website.	A case plan is completed in full and on conclusion a final case plan and a Claim1 would be completed in full.
There is now just one CCFS information pack. However, the scheme works in the same way and the solicitor must choose which model to use. It is not possible to claim one event using the standard model and another event using an advocacy rate.	There are 2 info packs; 'CCFS Solicitor Advocates model' and the 'CCFS Standard Model'.
The LAA consider the planned main hearing days at the date of registration to determine if the over 10 day rate is used.	The LAA consider the actual events and the planned last substantive main hearing.
A Substantive Client Conference can be claimed by an in-house advocate. The litigator, advocate and client must all be in attendance. It must also be evidenced by an attendance note.	Solicitors cannot claim a conference as an event.
Written Submissions can be claimed by the advocate completing the work if evidenced with a court order.	Written Submissions is only claimable where there was a main hearing exceeding 10 consecutive days.
Judges Reading Days will not attract an event fee where no advocate is required to attend court. If the advocate is called to attend that day, the event will attract a full event fee and count as a ' <i>main hearing</i> ' day but must be evidenced with a court order.	A reading day could be claimed if there is a lengthy, consecutive hearing exceeding 10 days, then an overrun could be claimed but would not count as a main hearing.
Advocates meetings. Clarification that a court order must be provided for each AM. Also, clarity now included within the info pack on why this differs to the electronic handbook, because of the higher amount paid.	Court orders are required for Advocates meetings but this was not clarified within the info pack.
Where the 2 nd solicitor registers the case VHCC, they no longer have to include the 1 st solicitor's costs.	The new solicitor must make every possible effort to include the previous firm's costs.
Online calculator available.	The online calculator can be used for older cases but was only made available from August 2015.

VHCC Changes to certificates registered as high cost after 01 October 2015

Post 1st October 2015	Pre 1st October 2015
All Care cases registered as high cost after 1 st October 2015 will use the Care Case Fee Scheme for the solicitor costs unless the case is deemed to be exceptional.	Care cases have the choice of using CCFS for solicitor costs.
Applications for exceptionality in Care cases must be made when registering a case as high cost. The costs, including enhancements, must be 30% above the CCFS amounts and a justification provided to show exceptionality. If granted, a full case plan must be submitted within 4 weeks.	If the choice is made to submit solicitor costs using hourly rates, then the full case plan is submitted. The Solicitor would not need any prior agreement to use hourly rates.
Providers involved with Private Law cases will continue to use full case plans but have the option to apply to use CCFS where appropriate.	CCFS is reserved for care cases only.