Motoring Offences – Magistrates Court

Legal costs

There are three main elements to the legal costs of dealing with Motoring matters in the Magistrates Court.:

- our charges;
- expenses we must pay out on your behalf e.g Counsel's fees, expert reports, travel expenses.
- costs that you may have to pay another party e.g Contributions to prosecution costs.

Our charges

Our hourly rates for Motoring-Magistrates Court are:

Senior Solicitors qualified 8 years +	£288.00
Solicitors qualified from 4 to 8 years	£247.00
Newly Qualified Solicitors and Legal Executives	£200.00

We strive to provide as much certainty as we can in these matters. The maximum fee is dependent upon the plea that you will be entering.

Early Guilty Plea - our charge will be £500 plus VAT maximum. An early guilty plea is a plea that is entered on the first date at Court.

Not Guilty Plea - our charge for a simple one day trial will be £2000 plus VAT maximum.

In our experience it is highly unlikely that a trial of a motoring matter will take longer than one day. In the event that it does our charges will increase and you will be notified of our proposed charges at that stage.

If a matter or transaction does not reach a conclusion, we reserve the right to charge for the work done, using our normal hourly charging basis. This applies even where a fixed rate has been agreed for the whole matter.

Our charges do not include VAT, which we will add to your bill at the prevailing rate, currently 20%.

Expenses

Even where our charges are fixed, we would usually expect to incur certain expenses your behalf which we will also add to your bill. The amount of expenses can vary.

Travel is charged at 45p per mile.

We would obtain a quote from Counsel and experts which we will notify you of in advance. We expect you to place us in funds in advance of the instruction of Counsel/experts.

Costs you may have to pay another party

If you plead guilty you will be required to pay a contribution to Prosecution costs. These can vary but will be in the region of £85.

If you are convicted after trial the contribution to Prosecution costs will be markedly higher and is likely to be in the region of hundreds of pounds.

Likely timescale and key stages

If you plead guilty it is likely the Court will sentence you on the same day.

A trial is usually listed within 6-8 weeks but this timescale depends upon a number of factors including the number of witnesses to be called and their availability, the location of the trial and the availability of Court time. We will endeavour to keep you updated on timescales as the matter proceeds.

Our expertise

Our team has over 100 years of collective experience in delivering high-quality work in all matters relating to motoring matters at the Magistrates Court.

For details of the members of the team who may work on your matter, please see: https://www.brockbanks.co.uk/criminal-law/. Regardless of who works on your matter, they will be supervised by Michael Woolaghan LLB (Hons) Director and Head of the Criminal Department.

Complaints

We want to give you the best possible service. However, if at any point you become unhappy or concerned about the service we have provided, please inform us immediately so that we can do our best to resolve the problem.

In the first instance it may be helpful to contact the person who is working on your case to discuss your concerns and we will do our best to resolve any issues at this stage. If you would like to make a formal complaint, then you can read our full complaints procedure here. Making a complaint will not affect how we handle your case.

We will always attempt to resolve any complaints, but where this is not possible, complaints and redress mechanisms are provided through the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Legal Ombudsman.

Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)

The SRA can help you if you are concerned about our behaviour. This could be for things like dishonesty, taking or losing your money or treating you unfairly because of your age, a disability or other characteristic.

You can raise your concerns with the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

Legal Ombudsman

The Legal Ombudsman can help if we are unable to resolve your complaint ourselves. The Legal Ombudsman will look at your complaint independently and it will not affect how we handle your case.

Before accepting a complaint for investigation, the Legal Ombudsman will check that you have tried to resolve your complaint with us first. If you have, then you must take your complaint to the Legal Ombudsman:

- within six months of receiving our final response to your complaint; an
- no more than:
  - one year from the date of act/omission; or
  - one year from when you should reasonably have known there was cause for complaint.

If you would like more information about the Legal Ombudsman, please use the contact details below:

Visit: www.legalombudsman.org.uk

Call: 0300 555 0333 between 10am to 4pm.

Email: enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk

Legal Ombudsman, PO Box 6167, Slough SL1 0EH

The Legal Ombudsman deals with complaints by consumers and very small businesses. This means some clients may not have the right to complain to the Legal Ombudsman, eg charities or clubs with an annual income of more than £1m, trustees of trusts with asset value of more than £1m and most businesses (unless they are defined as micro-enterprises). This does not prevent you from making a complaint directly to us.

Complaints and redress via ODR platform

If we are unable to resolve your complaint, and it relates to a contract entered into online or by other electronic means, you may also be able to submit your complaint to a certified alternative dispute resolution (ADR) provider in the UK via the EU ODR platform.

The ODR platform is an interactive website offering a single point of entry for disputes between consumers and traders relating to online contracts. The ODR platform is available to consumer clients only, ie where you have instructed us for *purposes outside your trade, business, craft or profession*.

The website address for the ODR platform is: http://ec.europa.eu/odr.

Regulatory information

Brockbank Curwen Cain & Hall Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). Our SRA registration number is 00384225.