

Terms and Conditions of medico-legal work undertaken by

Dr Rajesh Gowda

Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist
MB ChB, MRCPsych

With effect from 1st May 2010

1. Fees for reports, correspondence and joint statements

No charge is made for initial telephone discussions with solicitors concerning cases.

£220 per hour is charged for all subsequent work relating to the production of expert reports including related correspondence, preparatory reading, relevant annotation of medical and other records, examination of the client and/or any third parties, subsequent dictation preparation and writing of the report, plus any subsequent *major* amendments and supplementary reports as requested.

1 and an 1/2 hours are normally allocated for the examination of the claimant and one hour for subsequent examinations unless the circumstances are such that a lengthier interview is indicated.

In the case of joint statements the time spent in discussion with the other expert(s) is charged at the same rate as the reports.

If there is a ceiling of costs this must be clearly specified and discussed with Dr Gowda before any work is undertaken.

If, during the course of interview with the client, or perusal of documents, it appears that the report will take longer to prepare than the previously agreed ceiling might allow Dr Gowda will discuss this with the instructing party before proceeding further.

Additional charges on all cases to cover room rental (interview) and secretarial expenses.

2. Fees for attendance at Conference or Court

£1500 per day plus travel expenses and accommodation, if necessary.

3. Cancellation fees for conference and court appearances

For cancellation within 2 working days 100% of the fee (£1500) will be charged.

For cancellation between 5 and 2 working days 50% (£750) of the fee will be charged.

The fee will be reduced according to what additional paid clinical work Dr Gowda is able to obtain at short notice.

4. Fees for non-attendance of appointments

If a client fails to attend an appointment or else cancels an appointment with insufficient notice to allow for an alternative appointment for another patient to be allocated made, the right to charge a fee equivalent to the allocated appointment time (1 and an half hour) and additional cost, for example, room hire is reserved at the discretion of the consultant.

5. Refunds and waivers

Fees are not subject to a refund or waiver in whole or in part in the event of disallowance or reduction on the Court's assessment for costs and fees or refusal by the funding, paying or contributing party/firm to pay in full, part or at all. Fees are **not** subject to taxation.

6. Payment of fees

Payment: **strictly within 60 days** of presentation of invoice. In line with current government guidelines, interest may be charged at 8% above base rate on overdue invoices from time of submission to time of settlement. In the case of transfer of the case to another set of solicitor's payment must be made prior to transfer.

7. Joint instructions

In the event of joint instructions, fee liability is joint and several.

8. Time to submission of reports

Reports are usually completed and submitted within 3 weeks of interview. Delays may result if key documents are missing.

9. Due diligence and Case records

Instructing solicitors or companies will use their best endeavours to give full instructions and also to supply all necessary records and information - including relevant medical personnel and occupational health records – several weeks prior to interview, which they may be reasonably asked to supply in relation to the claim and or court proceedings, in order to prepare the interview and examination.

All notes records and papers will be shredded at the conclusion of the case unless their return is requested in writing.

10. Terms application.

These terms override the terms and conditions of any instructing party.

11. Operation of Terms

These terms and conditions will apply to all instructions received or work carried out on or after 1st May 2010.

Dr R Gowda
Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist