



If your income is greater than the threshold for a Representation Order

- Gross income over **£22,325** p.a.
- Net income after permitted deductions over **£3,398** p.a.

- then you will NOT be eligible for free representation in the Magistrates' Court unless

- Your income reduces to below those threshold levels and you can re-apply
- Your case passes the **Hardship Review** (referred to in fact sheet 4.24), which means:
 - the case costs are unusually high
 - you have unusually high outgoings e.g. high care costs for a disabled relative

Where no public funding is available to you in the Magistrates' Court, you can:-

- a) represent yourself in the Magistrates' Court
- b) pay us privately to represent you in the Magistrates' Court
- c) (in certain limited circumstances) use the duty solicitor to mitigate on your behalf if you are pleading guilty and you are facing a risk of custody

If you pay us privately, our likely Magistrates' Court costs would be

- simple guilty plea and mitigation £500 - £750 plus VAT
- simple not guilty plea and trial £1,500 plus VAT
- complex not guilty plea and trial £3,000 plus VAT

If we have to pay fees to third parties (such as experts), these are paid on top.

Please let us know what you wish to do. If you wish to instruct us privately, we would need you to make a payment of £500 on account of our costs.

Legal Aid in the Crown Court is available to everybody who fully completes a Legal Aid application and provides full documentary proof of evidence. However it is means tested, and there may be a contribution payable both from your income and your capital.

Dunn & Baker – Here to help you

Disclaimer: The material contained in this fact sheet is for general guidance only. It is specific to the law of England and Wales, and represents a brief outline of the law current as at the date of the fact sheet. It is not intended to constitute, or to be a substitute for, legal advice specific to your case. Dunn and Baker will be responsible only for advice specifically given to you.