

Family Law Amendment (Costs) Rules 2017

We, Judges of the Family Court of Australia, make the following Rules of Court.

Dated 13 November 2017

S Strickland J

A Ainslie-Wallace J

J Ryan J

P Murphy J

M Aldridge J

M Kent J

M Le Poer Trench J

G Watts J

R Benjamin J

P Cronin J

S Moncrieff J

W Johnston J

I Loughnan J

J Rees J

S Duncanson

G Foster J

H Hannam J

R McClelland J

C Carew J

R O’Brien J

S Gill J

Judges of the Family Court  
of Australia

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1 Name

These Rules are the *Family Law Amendment (Costs) Rules 2017*.

2 Commencement

(1) Each provision of these Rules specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

| Commencement information | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Column 1 | Column 2 | Column 3 |
| Provisions | Commencement | Date/Details |
| 1. The whole of these Rules | 1 January 2018. | 1 January 2018 |

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of these Rules as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of these Rules.

(2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of these Rules. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of these Rules.

3 Authority

These Rules are made under the *Family Law Act 1975.*

4 Schedules

Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to these Rules is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to these Rules has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1—Amendments

Part 1—Main amendments

Family Law Rules 2004

1 Schedule 3

Repeal the Schedule, substitute:

Schedule 3—Itemised scale of costs

Note 1: See rule 19.18 and clause 6.19 of Schedule 6.

Note 2: This Schedule applies generally to work done on or after 1 January 2018 (see rule 27.01). Different amounts, set out in superseded versions of this Schedule, may continue to apply to work done before that date.

Part 1—Costs allowable for lawyer’s work done and services performed

| Costs—lawyer’s work | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Matter for which charge may be made | Amount (including GST) |
| 101 | Drafting a document (other than a letter) | $20.99 per 100 words |
| 102 | Producing a document (other than a letter) in printed form | $7.16 per 100 words |
| 103 | Drafting and producing a letter (including a fax or an email) | $24.10 per 100 words |
| 104 | Reading a document | $9.82 per 100 words |
| 105 | Scanning a document (where reading is not necessary) | $3.85 per 100 words |
| 106 | For a document or letter mentioned in item 101, 102, 103, 104 or 105 containing more than 3,000 words | The amount allowed by the Registrar |
| 107 | Photocopy or other reproduction of a document | 82 cents per page |
| 108 | Time reasonably spent by a lawyer on work requiring the skill of a lawyer (except work to which any other item in this Part applies) | $246.33 per hour |
| 109 | Time reasonably spent by a lawyer, or by a clerk of a lawyer, on work (except work to which any other item in this Part applies) | $159.69 per hour |

Note: See rule 19.43 in relation to item 104.

Part 2—Costs allowable for counsel’s work done and services performed

| Costs—counsel’s work | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Matter for which charge may be made | Amount (including GST)—senior counsel | Amount (including GST)—junior counsel |
| 201 | Chamber work (including preparing or settling any necessary document, opinion, advice or evidence, and any reading fee (if allowed)) | $473.75–$812.16 per hour | $282.83–$403.38 per hour |
| 202 | Attendance at a conference (including a court‑appointed conference), if necessary | $473.75–$812.16 per hour | $282.83–$403.38 per hour |
| 203 | Attendance of less than 3 hours (for example, a procedural hearing or a summary hearing) | $473.75–$3,383.85 | $253.03–$1,185.69 |
| 204 | A hearing or trial taking at least 3 hours but not more than 1 day | $879.80–$6,768.36 | $838.89–$1,939.14 |
| 205 | Other hearings or trials | $2,233.44–$6,768.36 per day | $1,999.25–$2,938.62 per day |
| 206 | Reserved judgment | $473.75–$812.16 per hour | $282.83–$403.38 per hour |

Part 3—Basic composite amount for undefended divorce

| Costs—undefended divorce | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Matter for which charge may be made | Amount (including GST) |
| 301 | If the lawyer employed another lawyer to attend at court for the applicant and there is a child of the marriage under 18 | $1,040.43 |
| 302 | If the lawyer employed another lawyer to attend at court for the applicant and there is no child of the marriage under 18 | $774.08 |
| 303 | If the lawyer did not employ another lawyer to attend at court for the applicant and there is a child of the marriage under 18 | $976.79 |
| 304 | If the lawyer did not employ another lawyer to attend at court for the applicant and there is no child of the marriage under 18 | $730.91 |
| 305 | If the lawyer did not attend at court for the hearing under section 98A of the Act | $628.88 |

Part 4—Basic composite amount for request for Enforcement Warrant or Third Party Debt Notice

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Costs—Enforcement Warrant or Third Party Debt Notice | | |
| Item | Matter for which charge may be made | Amount (including GST) |
| 401 | An Enforcement Warrant under rule 20.16 | $628.88 |
| 402 | A Third Party Debt Notice under rule 20.32 | $628.88 |

Part 2—Transitional provisions

Family Law Rules 2004

2 Part 27.1

Repeal the Part, substitute:

Part 27.1—Transitional provisions relating to the Family Law Amendment (Costs) Rules 2017

27.01 Application of Schedule 3 (itemised scale of costs)

Schedule 3, as substituted by the *Family Law Amendment (Costs) Rules 2017*, applies to work done on or after 1 January 2018.