

Introduction

As part of our professional rules, we aim to ensure that anyone wishing to use our services has the information they need to make an informed choice of legal services provider, including understanding what the costs may be.

Why instruct Levy & Co Solicitors?

Our firm specialises in criminal defence in all areas of Criminal Law. We undertake both legally aided clients and those who are privately funded. We strive to ensure our clients have expert assistance at the point of arrest, the Magistrates and Crown Court as well as appeals in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Levy & Co have offices in Witham, Braintree, Benfleet and Clacton but cover much further afield. Our approach to clients is one of friendliness and efficiency. Our clients are made to feel welcome but also confident that their legal issues are dealt with in a manner that both expedient and competent. We strive to create the right impression by being as available and as approachable as possible. We can offer appointments outside normal working hours and are available 24 hours a day 365 days a year for emergencies and clients who have been arrested. We feel it important that our clients to have access to a solicitor at all times and we ensure that as a firm we work as efficiently as possible to deliver an excellent service to all our clients.

There are many driving offences which can vary from minor offences to major offences and so can the punishments. We can help with drink/drug driving, mobile phone offences, speeding, dangerous driving and driving without insurance to name a few. These laws are in place to protect you, however if you have fallen victim too such an offence then we are here to help you get out of it. At Levy and Co Solicitors, we are trained to handle every issue promptly and professionally, to help put your mind at ease.

Motoring offence, summary only¹, Guilty Plea

Our Fees

¹ A summary only offence is an offence which can only be tried in the magistrates' court. There are exceptions. Under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (CJA 1988) offences specified in the Act can be tried on indictment by a jury if they are linked to an offence triable only in the Crown Court. The principal summary only offences are:

- driving whilst disqualified
- careless and inconsiderate driving
- failing to give information as to the identity of the driver
- failing to stop or report, and
- speeding.

Fixed Fee: From £500 + vat

What is included?

- Attendance and/or preparation;
- Considering evidence;
- Taking your instructions;
- Providing advice on likely sentence;
- Attendance and representation at a single hearing at the Magistrates Court.

What is not included?

- Instruction of any expert witnesses;
- Taking statements from any witnesses;
- Advice and assistance in relation to a Special Reasons² hearing;
- Advice or assistance in relation to any appeal.

Key stages involved

The key stages of your matter are based on the presumption that you have entered a guilty plea and have a date for your hearing. They typically include:

- Meet with you to provide instructions on what happened;
- Consider initial disclosure, and any other evidence and provide advice;
- Arranging to take any witness statements, if necessary (this will have an additional cost, charged at an hourly rate of £200.00)
- Explain the court procedure to you so you know what to expect on the day of your hearing, and the sentencing options available to the Court;
- Conduct any further preparatory work, obtain further instructions from you, if necessary, and answer any follow up queries you have;
- Attend court on the day, meet with you before going before the court. We anticipate being at court for [e.g. half a day].
- Discuss the outcome with you. If advice is required on appeal, this will carry an additional cost.

Please note we cannot provide a timescale of when your hearing will take place, as this depends on the court listing for that day.

² Special Reasons pertain exclusively to situations where the accused has been found or has pled guilty and now faces disqualification unless he/she can persuade the Court that the circumstances of the offence are such that it would be unjust to impose a ban.

Motoring offence, summary only, Trial

Each fixed fee set out below is exclusive of VAT and includes preparation for the Magistrates' Court hearing including advice and collation of evidence, representation at court by one of our specialist solicitors and advice on appeal if that is necessary.

Representation at court upon Guilty plea with sentence at a single hearing

£500 exclusive

Representation at court upon guilty plea with sentence at a separate hearing

£750 exclusive

Not guilty plea and half day trial

£1500 exclusive

Not guilty plea and full day trial

£2000 exclusive

Additional day or part day of trial

£500 exclusive

Exceptional hardship argument to avoid disqualification

£750 exclusive

Special reasons argument to avoid disqualification

Fees as for trials

Half day – £1500 exclusive

Inclusive Full day – £2000 exclusive

Appeal to the Crown Court Appeal against sentence – £1800 exclusive

Additional Expenses In addition, some trials will involve the instruction of experts to provide reports such as 'back calculations' where you are alleging post-driving consumption of alcohol. The fee for these reports is not included in the fixed-fess set out above, and there will be an additional cost, often in the region of £300 plus vat

Representation at a more distant court will incur an additional expense of £50 per hour exclusive travel time. Any mileage to more distant courts will be at the inclusive rate of £0.45 per mile with additional disbursements such as parking.

Although unlikely, some cases may be particularly complicated and therefore unsuited to a fixed fee approach. We will identify such cases immediately and provide you with separate advice as to the likely cost to conclusion.

Our Motoring Offences Team

Steven Levy

Partner-Solicitor and Head of Motoring Offences Team

Other Partner members of the team

Evelyn Hicks

Paula Fell

Other Members of the team

Elliot Moulster

Richard Moughton

Kristina Smith

Raphael Pigott

Mary Buxton

Last update: January 2022