

# Litigation Fees Made Simple



**MJ O'Connor**  
**Solicitors**

***At M J O'Connor Solicitors, we know from experience that the single greatest cause of worry for clients is the issue of legal fees and costs.***

People worry that at the end of their case, they will be presented with a large legal bill that will either be difficult to pay or will significantly reduce their award of damages.

With misleading talk of “no foal no fee” and the lure of “first consultations free” doing little more than fooling people into believing they can go to law with no risk, we have always adopted an honest and straightforward approach to legal fees and costs.

## **Our transparent approach to litigation fees**

If you have an injury related case, a road traffic collision, accident at work, medical negligence action or other type of injury case, you will pay no fees from your award of damages or settlement monies.

## **To achieve this, we will do the following:**

- We will explain to you in detail how legal fees will be charged. We will give you this information in writing in what is known as a Section 68 letter and will be happy to answer any questions you have regarding our fees during the running of your case.
- Assuming your case is not settled in the Injuries Board process, we will not charge you any fees for our work from your damages and will accept in full satisfaction of our fees whatever fees we recover from the other side. If we have to make a special arrangement with you on fees because of the particular nature of your case, we will do so by agreement with you and will set that out in writing for your peace of mind.
- Where money is required during the case to pay for medical reports, court stamp duties or other similar

outlays, you will have to pay these monies but will be reimbursed, in addition to and separate to your award of compensation, following the conclusion of the case subject to any sums that are not recovered from the unsuccessful party on the other side. Usually however we are able to recover for you most if not all of these outlays.

- In some cases it may be possible for us to arrange insurance for you to protect you from a costs award against you in the event that you lose your case. Such insurance cover is not easily obtained in cases where there is a significant risk but such cover can be put in place in many cases if your particular circumstances merit it. As with a lot of things, it is a matter of balancing risk against cost and that is ultimately a decision for you.
- Should you decide to accept an assessment of compensation made by the Injuries Board in your case or decide to accept an “all in” settlement whereby the defendant makes a single offer that includes your compensation and the legal fees and costs of the case, our fees are clearly not being paid by the other side and in these limited circumstances we will confirm to you our fees for the work we have done up to that point in your case in advance of you agreeing to any offer. You will know precisely how much you will be receiving into your hand before you accept or reject any offer of settlement.
- At the successful conclusion of your case, when we have agreed the costs of the case with the other side, we will send you a copy of the final agreed legal fees and costs so that you will see precisely what all the lawyers and witnesses in your team have been paid for the work done on your behalf. Assuming that we have been able to recover the costs from the other side that you paid during the course of the action, they will be refunded to you at this stage and the matter is then concluded.

### **Offices in Wexford & Cobh**

**Tel: +353 (0)53 91 22555 or (0)21 4813944**

**[www.mjoc.ie](http://www.mjoc.ie)  
[sturner@mjoc.ie](mailto:sturner@mjoc.ie)**