



[Guide to Fixed Fees and Legal Costs: 1 July 2024](#)

We are required by the Rules of Professional Conduct and Practice to provide clients with formal written advice as to the reasonably estimated range of costs and disbursements that a client may incur for services provided and the method of calculation.

We will do this by letter as soon as practicable after first taking instructions to act for matters that will likely exceed \$1,500 and are of a fixed-fee nature.

[Fixed Fees: Wills, Enduring Power of Attorney, Advanced Care Directives, Certificates](#)

Our fees for taking instructions, preparation and execution of these documents are as set out in the **attached** SCHEDULE OF FIXED FEES AND CHARGES.

We charge a reduced fixed fee for a **Standard Will** if your family and asset circumstances are uncomplicated and where you give us your instructions about yourself, your executors and beneficiaries via our online questionnaire. In uncomplicated circumstances we are primarily offering a professional service to draft your Wills.

If a Standard Will is not appropriate for your circumstances, or if you wish to discuss your Will in person then an **Estate Planned Will** is appropriate where we allow up to an hour for the taking of instructions. If that taking of your instructions is protracted beyond an hour or if we need to do extensive additional drafting, reading or giving further advice – e.g., inserting a discretionary testamentary trust on tax advice, or a detailed life estate clause for a blended family, reading Family Trusts or SMSF Deeds and having to advise and draft accordingly, then we charge according to the Higher Courts Scale. Please refer to www.kruselegal.com.au/wills for more information and examples.

[Free initial Family Law interview and deferred payment arrangements for select cases](#)

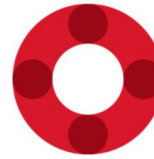
We offer one no-cost initial interview of around 30 minutes and up to an hour maximum to provide advice of a general nature for new **family law matters only**. It is important that potential clients have an opportunity to understand our approach to family law and be comfortable with us before engaging. Advice beyond this or otherwise is charged at the Higher Courts scale rates.

In *select* cases, we *may* agree to be paid “at the end”. There must be an end and we will request either the right to take a security and/or a signed Enforceable Payment Agreement before starting. Please talk to us about this as we want to help people who are temporarily doing it tough.

[All other matters: Family Law, Deceased Estates, Civil Law, Cyber Law](#)

The basis of our fees is the current Higher Courts scale. We **attach** an extract from the current scale. As of 1 January 2024, the scale rate for work done by a Solicitor is charged at scale +10% per hour plus GST. Work done by the Firm Principal is charged at scale + 35%. We also charge an administrative flat fee of \$135 plus GST to open your file and store it for five years.

We will advise you at the end of the initial interview the **estimated** cost of your documents or your matter to a defined stage. Disbursements (payments to external parties) will not be incurred without your knowledge and without your prior written consent.



Payment Methods

We advise that we can accept payment for work already performed by cash, cheque, credit card, EFTPOS, or by direct electronic payment into the Kruse Legal Firm Account as follows:

Kruse Legal (firm account)
Bank SA
BSB: 105 078
Account No: 065 352 440

Payments by credit card are subject to a 1.5% transaction fee imposed by our bank

For fixed fee matters, payment is requested upon delivery of your finalised documents.

**For all other matters our payment terms are strictly seven (7) days.
Any discounts given are subject to this payment term.**

For work that will be performed in the near future, and for external disbursements such as:

- Court filing and other statutory fees, hearing transcripts if requested or required;
- Government fees;
- courier charges; and
- Barrister's fees and expert's fees (including medical reports);

we will ask that you pay monies into our Trust Account and to maintain a positive Trust balance.

Kruse Legal Trust account
Bank SA
BSB: 105 078
Account No: 065 353 240

Monies paid into solicitors Trust Accounts are regulated by the *Legal Practitioners Act 1981 (SA)* and can be drawn upon after 7 days without further notice following the rendering of an account to you after the work is done unless there is a written objection or an unresolved question with an invoice. As each invoice is line itemised, each discrete piece of work performed is identifiable by reference to the scale.

If you have any queries about our fees, please do not hesitate to raise them with us in writing as soon as possible to avoid any misunderstandings.

**We will never send our bank account details by any other method.
Do not send money to any other account. This document is digitally signed.**

Darren Kruse

**KRUSE LEGAL SCHEDULE OF FIXED FEES AND CHARGES
1 JULY 2024**

| KLS CODE | WILLS, ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY and ADVANCED CARE DIRECTIVES | <u>All prices exclude GST</u> |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 28 | Pair of mirrored Standard Wills , prepared on client's online questionnaire instructions. | \$600 |
| | Single Will , prepared on client's online questionnaire instructions. | \$340 |
| 30 | Single Will prepared on client's in-person instructions, allowing up to 1 hour. | \$445 |
| 31 | Single Codicil to an Original Will - prepared on client's instructions. | \$290 |
| 32 | Partner's Will prepared on client's instructions in conjunction with other partner's Will, or as part of a package of documents. | \$290 |
| 40,42 | Single <u>Enduring Power of Attorney</u> OR <u>Single Advanced Care Directive</u>. | \$170 |
| 41,43 | Enduring Power of Attorney (discounted) prepared as part of a package of documents. | |
| | Advanced Care Directive (discounted) prepared as part of a package of documents. | \$145 |
| 44 | Complete <u>Couples</u> Life Planning Package: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will (2) • Enduring Power of Attorney (2) • Advanced Care Directive (2) | \$1,260 |
| 45 | Complete <u>Singles</u> Life Planning Package: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will • Enduring Power of Attorney • Advanced Care Directive | \$670 |
| HCS 1 | Additional drafting for Wills – according to HCS 1 ; per page Examples: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Tenancies (transferable or not – varies – generally 3.5 to 6 pages) • Protective Testamentary Trust (discretionary or fixed – varies generally 3.5 to 6 pages). | |
| | Pensioner with current Commonwealth Government Pension Card for Wills, EPOA and ACD documents <u>Excludes</u> Single Standard Will prepared on client's online questionnaire instructions. | \$25 discount per document |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | |
| 23 | Opening a new file and storage for 5 years: flat fee for all non-fixed-fee matters. | \$135 |
| 50 | Waiver of Cooling off Certificate and Retail Lease s 20K Exclusionary Clause Certificate. | \$390 |
| 51 | Discounted Solicitor's Guarantee Certificate (First Homeowner), i.e., parents for child. Includes: preparation, reading supplied documents and 30+ minute consultation with clients for independent legal advice. | \$525 |
| 54 | Standard Solicitor's Guarantee Certificate (<u>NOT</u> First Homeowner), i.e., parents for child, re-financing, residential investment, reverse mortgage. Includes: preparation, reading supplied documents & 30+ minute consultation for independent legal advice. | \$660 |
| 52 | Complex Solicitor's Guarantee Certificate , i.e., SMSF, commercial, other investments. Includes: preparation, reading supplied documents and 45+ minute consultation for independent legal advice. Does <u>not</u> include any post advice work required. | \$1,050 |
| 53 | Review and advice regarding Retirement Village Contracts. Includes: reading supplied documents and up to one hour consultation with clients for independent legal advice. | \$445 |

Uniform Civil Rules 2020 Higher Court Scales Table Extract

| HCS | DOCUMENTS <i>Drawing and engrossing [Including original and the lawyer's file copy.]</i> | Adjusted for statutory increases from 1.1.24 | KL Solicitor Rate +10% | KL Principal Rate +35% |
|-----|---|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Drawing any document of importance other than correspondence and those listed in item 2, per ¼ page. | \$64.63 | \$71.09 | \$87.25 |
| 2 | Drawing proofs, indices, formal lists, extracts from other documents, lists or authorities, or other formal documents, per ¼ page | \$21.23 | \$23.35 | \$28.66 |
| 3 | Engrossing documents, when copying or scanning is not appropriate, per ¼ | \$6.14 | \$6.75 | \$8.29 |

PERUSING AND EXAMINING DOCUMENTS AND ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

| | | | | |
|----|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 4. | Perusing documents and correspondence, per ¼ page | \$3.08 - \$12.02 | \$3.39 - \$14.45 | \$4.16 - \$16.23 |
| 5 | Examining documents, when a perusal is not justified, per ¼ page | \$0.77 | \$0.85 | \$1.04 |

DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY COPYING OR SCANNING, OR RECEIVING EMAILS, FAXES OR ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS

| | | | | |
|---|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 6 | Per sheet. | \$0.45 | \$0.50 | \$0.61 |
|---|------------|--------|--------|--------|

ATTENDANCES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Attendances and oral communications, whether personal or by electronic communication, and including attendances to swear or take affidavits, per six (6) minute unit.

| | | | | |
|----|---|---------|---------|---------|
| 7a | By a lawyer involving skill. | \$44.69 | \$49.16 | \$60.33 |
| 7b | By a lawyer not involving skill (i.e., travel time to/from Court, waiting). | \$26.81 | \$29.49 | \$36.19 |
| 7c | By a non-lawyer employed or engaged by a lawyer (para-legal). | \$21.23 | | |
| 7d | Arranging appointments, per person, including all work involved. | \$30.17 | | |

FILING & DELIVERY

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------|--|--|
| 9 | Filing or delivery of documents other than personal service when no other attendance is properly allowable. | \$30.17 | | |
|---|---|---------|--|--|

CORRESPONDENCE

| | | | | |
|----|--|---------|---------|---------|
| 10 | Whether sent by letter, email, SMS, or fax, per ¼ page | \$30.17 | \$33.19 | \$40.73 |
|----|--|---------|---------|---------|

MISCELLANEOUS

| | | | | |
|----|---|---------|--|--|
| 12 | Paying disbursements by whatever means and including all work and associated expenses. | \$30.17 | | |
| 13 | Preparation of Trial Books, Tender and Exhibit Books, Application Books, Appeal Books and Briefs, including indices, pagination & binding, per page | \$2.24 | | |