

Legal Aid in Family Legal Cases

The Government has introduced new legislation, which means that legal aid is no longer available in most family cases from 1st April 2013.

There are some exceptions. Legal aid is still available in the following circumstances:

- For victims of domestic violence;
- If you are in dispute with social services about your children, for example if social services are trying to remove your children from your home and you wish to contest this;
- If your child is being taken into care by social services;
- In cases of international child abduction, where your partner is trying to take your children out of the UK, or has already done so.

However, there is no legal aid available for divorce, children or finance case unless you are going through mediation, or you can prove that you are a victim of domestic violence. You may also be eligible for legal aid in divorce where your child is at risk of abuse by another person.

The legal aid legislation defines domestic violence as: “any incident, or pattern of incidents, of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (whether psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional), between intimate partners or family members”.

To get legal aid in these circumstances, there is certain documentary evidence that you need to produce, and more details are set out on our website www.alisonfielden.co.uk, together with details about whether you may be financially entitled to legal aid.

For enquiries about the above, or any family matters, and an initial 30 minute free appointment, please contact Heather Weavill, or Steven Barratt of Alison Fielden & Co, 01285 653 261. We are the only firm in Cirencester who are now able to offer legal aid in new family cases.