

The Barrister Broker - reducing your legal costs



Happy New Year to all The Edenbridge Directory readers and I hope you've all been enjoying the festive season. I experienced my first Edenbridge Christmas Spectacular this year as did so many of you. I'm full of admiration for the groups who organise such events and the support from the local community is always a delight to see.

So, back to the world of The Barrister Broker – how I can help you and significantly reduce your legal costs at the same time...

In the last edition I focused on the issue of divorce and child contact and how, by going directly to a Barrister to help you rather than to a solicitor, you can substantially reduce your legal costs. In this edition my focus is in relation to civil disputes aimed at those people and businesses representing themselves, whether suing someone or being sued and how, by using the expertise of a Barrister, they can improve their chances of achieving a successful outcome.

• If you think you have a claim against someone, take the prudent step of getting a legal expert's view as to whether you do have a claim or not, and if you do, your likely chances of success before you go issuing proceedings. A Barrister can review your evidence and provide you with an expert legal opinion on the "merits" of your claim. Know your real position from the outset. If you pursue a claim that has little or no chance of success, not only will you be wasting your time and money, you will risk being responsible for the other side's costs, which could be a lot more than the amount you were claiming in the first place! There are pre-action protocols which you are expected to comply with before commencing various proceedings and a Barrister is best placed to advise how to deal with them and the same with a 'Letter before Claim' which you also have to issue. If you don't comply, costs can be awarded

against you.

- Assuming you go ahead and issue proceedings you will need to serve your 'Claim Form' including the 'Particulars of Claim' which is an important and technical document upon which the very foundation of your claim is built. Claims have been won and lost on the strength of a Claimant's particulars of claim. A Barrister can draft this document for you on the information you provide. Don't just 'have a go' or 'guess' - get it right. Give yourself the best chance of success by using a Barrister to draft this document for you.
- Further down the line you will need to file your own statement and if you are relying on witnesses to give evidence on your behalf, they will need to provide their own statement. A 'Witness Statement' is another vitally important document and should be drafted expertly. A Barrister can draft your statement for you from what you tell him/her. The Barrister can also finalise the witness statements of another person (your witness) based on the information that person has provided.

So, by using a Barrister to help you along the way, as much or as little as you wish, you can act for yourself with far more confidence (in knowing that you have produced the strongest case documentation possible) than if you didn't have that legal expertise behind you.

Using a Barrister is incredibly cost-effective. You get the highest level of legal expert which will cost less overall than a solicitor. The fact that I charge 'fixed fees' for Barristers and I will be able to tell you in advance how much those fees will be, is a major comfort to anyone considering their options. You wouldn't engage a plumber without getting a quote up front first would you? So why should a lawyer be any different? Well of course they shouldn't be, and they aren't, not when going via me direct to a Barrister!

It won't cost you anything to speak to me but I could end up saving you thousands!

Call me on 07971 285 796 or email me at russell@thebarristerbroker.com

Until next time...

Russell Burton-Lawrence