

**FAMILY LAW ACT 1975**

**IN THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT AND FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA  
(DIVISION 2) AT NEWCASTLE**

**File No. NCC3896/2023**

**STEPHEN CHRISTOPHER COOKE  
(Applicant)**

**AND**

**HEATHER ANNE COOKE  
(Respondent)**

**COSTS NOTICE FOR STEPHEN COOKE**

23 July 2024

Pursuant to 6.35 Central Practice Direction

- a. the total costs and disbursements incurred by Stephen Cooke in the proceeding to date
  - i. with former Solicitors (Clarity Lawyers) billed and paid \$127,000 as advised by Stephen
  - ii. with Ramsdens \$34,407 billed and paid
- b. an estimate of the anticipated costs expected to be incurred in each remaining stage of the proceeding;
  - i. up to and including directions hearing 23 July 2024 (including directions hearing 9 July, preparation Application in Case etc) \$17,000;
  - ii. costs of preparing for and court appearance one day 23 July (excluding barristers fees) \$5,500
  - iii. preparing for and attending Readiness and Compliance Hearing (presuming on line) \$1,500
  - iv. preparation for final hearing in respect of parenting, property and spousal maintenance \$33,000
  - v. solicitors attendance at hearing to brief Counsel \$5,500 for each day. If 3 days, \$16,500
  - vi. barristers preparation for and attendance at 3 day court hearing say \$8,000 each day and allowing 3 days in preparation \$48,000
- c. an estimate of the likely duration of the final hearing and the total anticipated costs and disbursements expected to be incurred for the remainder of the proceeding



- i. the above estimates - not including i. and ii above for up to and including the mediation, based on a three day hearing for parenting, property and spousal maintenance and total \$121,500
- ii. fees payable to the court - there is a setting down for hearing fee of \$745 for Division 2 and \$745 for the second and subsequent hearing days
- iii. other disbursements might include
  - a. Fees for a Family Report
  - b. If an independent childrens lawyer is appointed to represent the children, they are paid by the Legal Aid Commission which seeks a contribution from parents for their fees.



SIGNED:

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Matthew Shepherd

