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How much does a lawyer cost?

Verified 09 novembre 2020 - Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (Prime Minister), Ministry of Justice

What you will actually pay the lawyer varies considerably depending on whether you benefit from [legal aid \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F18074?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F18074?lang=en).

General case

Lawyer fees are not regulated. The lawyer sets the cost of the services he charges his client.

To determine the lawyer's fees, several criteria are used: the client's financial situation, difficulty of the case, costs, lawyer's reputation, time spent on the case...

A lawyer can thus be paid:

- according to the time spent on the basis of an hourly rate which depends in particular on the complexity of the case
- or according to a flat-rate settlement for simple procedures. The amount of the package is paid as a total and final remuneration.

Operating costs are added (opening of files, telephone, photocopies, travel, etc.).

The lawyer may sometimes receive an additional fee.

First of all, the supplementary fee must be included in the [mandatory convention \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F15018?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F15018?lang=en) which must be signed between you and your lawyer from the beginning of the collaboration.

The supplementary fee shall then be fixed taking into account the following:

- Result obtained by the work of the lawyer
- Service rendered to you by the lawyer
- Your financial situation

⚠ Warning : fees fixed solely on the basis of the result obtained in court are prohibited. This method of remuneration may only concern a supplementary fee.

An agreement must be signed between the client and the lawyer from the beginning of the collaboration to establish

- the amount of his remuneration
- and the various costs and disbursements envisaged,

except in case of emergency or force majeure.

You can find different convention templates on the website of the National Council of Bar Associations.

Who shall I contact

- [Bar Association](https://www.cnb.avocat.fr/fr/annuaire-barreaux)  (https://www.cnb.avocat.fr/fr/annuaire-barreaux)

👉 FYI : in order to cover or reduce the legal fees, the client can benefit from [free consultations \(https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F20706?lang=en\)](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F20706?lang=en).

Partial legal aid

Lawyer fees are not regulated. He sets the cost of the services he charges his client.

Your lawyer's fees are partially covered and you must pay the balance. The level of support is set according to your resources and the composition of your tax household. It can be 25% or 55%.

To determine the lawyer's fees, several criteria are used: the client's financial situation, difficulty of the case, costs, lawyer's reputation, time spent on the case...

A lawyer can thus be paid:

- depending on the time spent on the basis of an hourly rate which depends in particular on the complexity of the case,
- or according to a flat-rate settlement for simple procedures. The amount of the package is paid as a total and final remuneration.

Operating costs are added (opening of files, telephone, photocopies, travel, etc.).

An agreement must be signed between the client and the lawyer from the beginning of the collaboration to establish

- the amount of his remuneration
- and the various costs and disbursements envisaged,

except in case of emergency or force majeure.



Model supplementary fee agreement for partial legal aid

National Bar Council

Allows the lawyer and his client to set an additional fee in case of partial legal aid.

Go to
document template(pdf - 273.2 KB) [↗](http://encyclopedie.avocats.fr/GED_BWZ/195994691317/cNB-FR-acD_conve.pdf)
(http://encyclopedie.avocats.fr/GED_BWZ/195994691317/cNB-FR-acD_conve.pdf)

➔ **FYI** : in order to cover or reduce the legal fees, the client can benefit from [free consultations](https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F20706?lang=en) (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F20706?lang=en>).

Total legal aid

Your lawyer's fees are fully covered and you don't have to pay anything.

🔗 **Please note** : property seizure, sharing, licensing (auction of property in indivisibility) and judicial security, the lawyer's fees are charged.

Statute and miscellaneous references

- Act No. 71-1130 of 31 December 1971 on the reform of certain judicial and legal professions [↗](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006068396) (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006068396>)
Article 10
- Law n°2015-990 of 6 August 2015 for growth, activity and equal economic opportunities [↗](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexteArticle.do?idArticle=JORFARTI000030978939&cidTexte=JORFTEXT000030978561) (<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexteArticle.do?idArticle=JORFARTI000030978939&cidTexte=JORFTEXT000030978561>)

Online services and forms

- Model supplementary fee agreement for partial legal aid (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R37879?lang=en>)
Document template
 - Seize the mediator or the bar-bearer to contest his lawyer's fees (<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/R19096?lang=en>)
Document template
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