

Financial Information Sheet

(with effect from 01 June 2010)

Information contained in this Sheet must be read together with other legal aid publications where appropriate

1. Financial Eligibility Limits for Legal Aid ^{Note 1}

a) Civil Legal Aid

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Ordinary Scheme | \$175,800 |
| Supplementary Scheme | \$488,400 |

b) Criminal Legal Aid

| |
|-----------|
| \$175,800 |
|-----------|

2. Deductible Personal Allowances ^{Note 2}

| Household Size | Amount |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Applicant only | \$3,860 |
| Applicant with 1 dependant | \$7,080 |
| Applicant with 2 dependants | \$9,570 |
| Applicant with 3 dependants | \$11,120 |
| Applicant with 4 dependants | \$13,380 |
| Applicant with 5 dependants | \$14,830 |
| Applicant with 6 or more dependants | \$18,970 |

3. Contribution Table for Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme

a) For cases where the applicants are within the means limit :

| Financial Resources | Contribution Rates | Contribution payable ^{Note 3} |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 0 - \$20,000 | - | 0 |
| \$20,001 - \$40,000 | - | \$1,000 |
| \$40,001 - \$60,000 | - | \$2,000 |
| \$60,001 - \$80,000 | 5% | \$3,000 - \$4,000 |
| \$80,001 - \$100,000 | 10% | \$8,000 - \$10,000 |
| \$100,001 - \$120,000 | 15% | \$15,000 - \$18,000 |
| \$120,001 - \$144,000 | 20% | \$24,000 - \$28,800 |
| \$144,001 - \$175,800 | 25% | \$36,000 - \$43,950 |

b) For cases where the Director exercises discretion ^{Note 1} :

| Financial Resources | Contribution Rates | Contribution payable ^{Note 3} |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------|
| \$175,801 - \$269,700 | 30% | \$52,740 - \$80,910 |
| \$269,701 - \$369,700 | 35% | \$94,395 - \$129,395 |
| \$369,701 - \$469,700 | 40% | \$147,880 - \$187,880 |
| \$469,701 - \$569,700 | 45% | \$211,365 - \$256,365 |
| \$569,701 - \$669,700 | 50% | \$284,850 - \$334,850 |
| \$669,701 - \$769,700 | 55% | \$368,335 - \$423,335 |
| \$769,701 - \$869,700 | 60% | \$461,820 - \$521,820 |
| \$869,701 - \$1,200,000 | 65% | \$565,305 - \$780,000 |
| exceeding \$1,200,000 | 67% | \$780,000 plus |

4. Contribution Table for Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme

| | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Initial application fee | \$1,000 |
| Interim contribution ^{Note 3} | \$43,950 |
| Final contribution ^{Note 4} | [All costs and expenses incurred by the Director + percentage deduction ^{Note 5}] – [interim contribution + application fee paid + costs recovered from the opposite party] |

5. Director of Legal Aid's First Charge

a) **Costs of Registration**

\$2,600

b) **Prescribed interest on the amount of First Charge**

1.822 % p.a. ^{Note 6}

c) **Amount of monthly maintenance payable to a spouse exempted from the Director of Legal Aid's First Charge**

\$4,800

Note 1:

The Director of Legal Aid may waive the financial eligibility limit in meritorious cases involving a possible breach of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance or an inconsistency with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Director also has discretion to grant legal aid in criminal cases to an applicant whose financial resources exceed the upper limit if he is satisfied that it is desirable in the interests of justice to do so. In both cases, a contribution on higher rates calculated in accordance with the financial resources of the applicants is payable.

Note 2:

The amounts of personal allowances are adjusted in February each year in line with the Consumer Price Index A, and every five years in line with the latest Household Expenditure Survey conducted by the Census and Statistics Department.

Note 3:

Contribution is payable upon acceptance of legal aid and may be paid by instalments if allowed by the Director.

Note 4:

Payable after the conclusion of the case if successful.

Note 5:

The percentage deduction is 10% of the damages recovered and 6% if the case is settled prior to delivery of a brief to Counsel to attend trial.

Note 6:

This rate is adjusted annually on 1 June each year.