

Position of the Legal Aid Agency as to undertaking work with the National Centre for Domestic Violence

1. This Position Statement is made by the Legal Aid Agency ('LAA') as part of its operational legal aid functions on behalf of the Lord Chancellor. The purpose of this Statement is to clarify the LAA position on contracted family legal aid firms working with the National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV).
2. The LAA and NCDV have reached an agreement in relation to the arrangements for legal aid firms to be on a NCDV panel. Firms should refer to the NCDV website for further information which is set out in the published Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the NCDV and its panel firms and can be found here www.ncdv.org.uk/solicitors-panel.
3. The MoU makes clear that the criteria for panel membership and for referring cases to panel members will not be influenced by whether a firm is willing to pay for any other services offered by the NCDV.
4. The NCDV offer a service to produce a bundle of documents including the witness statement and draft order. The NCDV charge a fee of £178.50 plus VAT for the preparation of the bundle. In producing the bundle NCDV are not acting as your agent and this fee cannot be claimed from the LAA.
5. It is for an individual firm to satisfy themselves that any arrangements they have in place do not breach their professional obligations. Providers must comply with their obligations under the 2018 Standard Civil Contract and in particular clause 6.8 of the Standard Terms which prohibits the payment of any referral fees.