

## Information on fees

### Is good advice expensive?

A lawyer may not provide free legal advice by law. However, the lawyer's fee is not arbitrary but precisely laid down in the Law on the Remuneration of Attorneys (RVG=Rechtsanwaltsvergütungsgesetz). Please do not hesitate to ask us at your first meeting about the costs you may be expected to be charged.

Go to your lawyer before it is too late!

The help of a lawyer is not expensive, especially if you take advantage of it in time. Early consultation helps to avoid lawsuits and to save a lot of money.

The RVG has three main types of fees: General fees, specific fees and remuneration agreements.

### 1. General fees

So-called general fees apply in the entire out-of-court area of civil, administrative and criminal law. This means that the lawyer determines his fees considering all the circumstances of the individual case within the legal framework laid down in § 14 RVG (Law on the Remuneration of Attorneys).

- Civil law: the exact determination of this fee depends on the legal difficulty and scope of the matter, the time required and the financial situation of the client.
- Administrative offences / criminal cases: the lawyer who represents his client in a traffic offence also receives a general fee for his efforts. In criminal matters we represent you on the basis of fee agreements.

### Important note:

In principle, all fees are charged plus a flat-rate expense allowance of maximum EUR 20.00 per engagement plus value added tax.

### 2. Specific fee

Specific fees are levied for disputes in the judicial area, in particular before local courts, regional courts, higher regional courts, the Federal Court of Justice, labour courts, administrative courts and fiscal courts. They are prescribed in a table of the Law on the Remuneration of Attorneys.

In the case of a lawsuit, in addition to the lawyer's fees, the court costs, witness fees and expert's fees must also be considered. In a civil case, the party who loses must pay for the entire costs of the proceedings.

However, the exception to this is the labour court procedure. In the first instance, each party pays its own lawyer's fees.

**Important note:**

If the lawsuit was preceded by an out-of-court activity, the subsequent court fees will be partially offset against the out-of-court fees.

**3. Remuneration agreements**

According to § 4 RVG, lawyers may also conclude remuneration agreements with their clients. As a calculation model particularly hourly or daily rates, as well as flat-rate fees for a specific activity or consulting flat rates can be considered. Lawyer's fees are therefore independent of the amount in dispute. We recommend remuneration agreements, not only for extensive consulting clients, criminal cases and long-term consulting agreements. These also makes sense, because the agreement of an hourly fee means the fee calculation is transparent for you. In the case of comprehensive and time-intensive activities, our clients regularly receive detailed time sheets on request.

**Important note:**

For litigation, fee agreements providing for a lower remuneration than the statutory remuneration may not be concluded.