

STANDARD TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

These Standard Terms of Engagement (“terms”) apply in respect of all work carried out by us for you, except to the extent that we otherwise agree with you in writing.

1. SERVICES

1.1 The services we are to provide for you are outlined in our engagement letter.

2. FINANCIAL

2.1 Fees:

- a. The fees we will charge or the manner in which they will be arrived at, are set out in our engagement letter.
- b. If the engagement letter specifies a fixed fee, we will charge this for the agreed scope of our services. Work which falls outside that scope will be charged on an hourly rate basis. We will advise you as soon as reasonably practicable if it becomes necessary for us to provide services outside the agreed scope and, if requested, give you an estimate of the likely amount of the further costs.
- c. Where our fees are calculated on an hourly basis, the hourly rates are set out in our engagement letter. Time spent is recorded in 6-minute units, with time rounded up to the next unit of 6 minutes.
- d. Where we place funds on term deposit on your behalf, we may charge commission of 5% of interest earned to be deducted from any interest earned.

2.2 **Disbursements and expenses:** In providing services we may incur disbursements or have to make payments to third parties on your behalf. These will be included in our invoice to you when the expense is incurred. We may require an advance payment for the disbursements or expenses which we will be incurring on your behalf. We will charge agency fees in addition to registration fees paid to LINZ to cover attendances on e-dealings.

2.3 **GST (if any):** Is payable by you on our fees and charges.

2.4 **Invoices:** We will send interim invoices to you, usually monthly, and on completion of the matter, or termination of our engagement. We may also send you an invoice when we incur a significant expense.

2.5 **Payment:** Invoices (other than for conveyancing matters) are payable within 14 days of the date of the invoice, unless alternative arrangements have been made with us. We may require interest to be paid on any amount which is more than 7 days overdue. Interest will be calculated at the rate of 5% above our firm’s main trading bank’s 90-day bank bill buy rate as at the close of business on the date payment became due. Conveyancing (including sales, purchases, land transfers and refinancing) matters are invoiced and payable on settlement date.

2.6 **Consequences of Default:** Without prejudice to any other remedy we may have, you shall indemnify us from and against all costs and disbursements incurred by us in pursuing the payment of our fees and expenses (including legal costs on a solicitor and own client basis) and any collection agency costs we may incur and we may suspend or terminate the provision of our services to you without our being liable to you for any loss you may incur because we have exercised our rights under this clause provided we do so in accordance with the Law Society’s Rules of Conduct and Client Care for Lawyers.

2.7 **Security:** We may ask you to pre-pay amounts to us, or to provide security for our fees and expenses. You authorise us:

- a. to debit against amounts pre-paid by you; and
- b. to deduct from any funds held on your behalf in our trust account

any fees, expenses or disbursements for which we have provided an invoice.

2.8 **Third Parties:** Although you may expect to be reimbursed by a third party for our fees and expenses, and although our invoices may at your request or with your approval be directed to a third party, nevertheless you remain responsible for payment to us if the third party fails to pay us.

2.9 **Guarantee:** If the client is a trust or a company then the person signing the letter of engagement or instructions personally guarantees the obligations of the trustees or the company.

3. **CONFIDENTIALITY**

3.1 We will hold in confidence all information concerning you or your affairs that we acquire during the course of acting for you. We will not disclose any of this information to any other person except:

- a. to the extent necessary or desirable to enable us to carry out your instructions; or
- b. to the extent required by law or by the Law Society's Rules of Conduct and Client Care for Lawyers.

3.2 Confidential information concerning you will as far as practicable be made available only to those within our firm who are providing legal services for you.

3.3 We will of course not disclose to you confidential information which we have in relation to any other client.

4. **TERMINATION**

4.1 You may terminate our retainer at any time.

4.2 We may terminate our retainer in any of the circumstances set out in the Law Society's Rules of Conduct and Client Care for Lawyers.

4.3 If our retainer is terminated, you must pay us all fees due up to the date of termination and all expenses incurred up to that date.

5. **RETENTION AND STORAGE OF FILES AND DOCUMENTS**

5.1 You authorise us (without further reference to you) to destroy all files and documents for this matter (other than any documents that we hold in safe custody for you) 7 years after our engagement ends, or earlier if we have converted those files and documents to an electronic format.

5.2 When your matter has been concluded and the file has been closed, in accordance with our current practice that file will be converted to an electronic format for storage. A fee to cover the cost of conversion will be shown on your invoice. If you, or someone on your behalf, later asks us to retrieve that file, or any part of that file, a retrieval fee will be charged.

6. **BANK MORTGAGES**

6.1 Where a Bank mortgage is involved in your transaction, we anticipate receiving instructions from the Bank regarding the completion of loan and security documents (when buying) or the repayment of the loan and release of the mortgage (when selling) and you acknowledge and accept that we also act for the Bank on those matters. For our part, we will advise you if a conflict arises as a result of our also acting for the Bank.

7. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

7.1 We have procedures in place to identify and respond to conflicts of interest. If a conflict of interest arises we will advise you of this and follow the requirements and procedures set out in the Law Society's Rules of Conduct and Client Care for Lawyers.

8. **DUTY OF CARE**

8.1 Our duty of care is to you and not to any other person. Before any other person may rely on our advice, we must expressly agree to this.

9. **TRUST ACCOUNT**

9.1 We maintain a trust account for all funds which we receive from clients (except monies received for payment of our invoices). If we are holding significant funds on your behalf, we will normally lodge those funds on interest bearing deposit with a bank. In that case we will charge an administration fee of 5% of the gross

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interest derived.

10. **GENERAL**

- 10.1 These Terms apply to any current engagement and also to any future engagement, whether or not we send you another copy of them.
- 10.2 We are entitled to change these Terms from time to time, in which case we will send you amended Terms.
- 10.3 Our relationship with you is governed by New Zealand law and New Zealand courts have non-exclusive jurisdiction.