

About Rhea Family Finance

Who we are

Rhea Group Ltd is a privately-owned specialist lender who has been lending in the legal market for over 10 years. We pride ourselves on our exceptionally high standards and we always work to exceed our clients and partners expectations.

Rhea are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (firm reference number: 722380).

What we offer

Rhea Family Finance offer a facility to individuals going through family proceedings that can be drawn upon as and when funds are needed. You are only charged interest on amounts drawn down.

Our product has been developed alongside leading family teams to ensure it is straight forward, transparent and that it adheres to strict regulatory requirements. You will be given access to our online portal, which provides you and your solicitor full access to all information and documents uploaded in relation to your finance application and facility. This places clear communication, transparency and accuracy of data as key pillars of our product and service.

Our Team

Rhea's team has deep and extensive experience and expertise within the divorce litigation funding sector. Our team is ranked 'top recommended' in both the Chambers & Partners and Spears 500 indices.

We pride ourselves on the service that we provide and are always on hand, whether it be you or your solicitor, to answer any queries.

Contact us

By telephone: +44 (0)207 062 4043

By e-mail: customer.services@rheafamily.co.uk

Website: www.rheafamily.co.uk

Our product

We pride ourselves on the service that we provide and are always on hand to answer any queries.

What we fund

Our facility covers legal fees and associated costs in relation to the following proceedings / processes:

- Divorce
- Financial remedy
- Arbitration / alternative resolution mechanisms
- Children's Act running concurrently with financial resolution process
- Cost of living (maintenance loans)
- Other satellite proceedings incl. enforcement, MPS, non-molestation etc.

Key features

- No minimum or maximum facility limits
- Interest rate between 14% p.a and 22% p.a (does not compound)*
- Administration fee of 1.5% of the approved facility size* subject to a £450 minimum fee
- No monthly repayments
- Quick approval times
- Instant access to the online portal for both borrowers and solicitors
- No hidden fees or charges

Maintenance loans

We also offer maintenance loans to help you with your living costs, which can be applied for through the online portal. Upon approval, you will be issued with loan documentation for signing, following which the facility will be made available for drawing. Drawdowns are paid directly into your designated account.

*Representative example of a 14% p.a. facility: A £100,000 drawdown will be repayable by one payment deferred for 12 months at an APR of 17.1% fixed. The total repayable after 12 months will be £116,500. The APR includes interest, a 1.5% administration fee and an indicative cost for obtaining independent legal advice (£275 incl. VAT)

The Process

Applications are made via our online portal, which is optimised for desktop browsers, tablets, mobile phones or via the Rhea app.

Pre-screen

The pre-screen is designed to give an early “decision in principle”. The form is short and only requires some minimal key details. Should your application not meet the regulatory assessment of affordability criteria, the pre-screen saves valuable time and effort providing details for a full application that is unlikely to progress. Typically, no documentary evidence will be requested at this stage.

Your solicitor also has the option to **skip this stage** and proceed to a full application, if desired.

Initial review

Rhea will review the pre-screen, complete anti-money laundering and credit check requirements. We commit to respond within 24 hours. At this stage we will confirm the interest rate to be charged for the duration of the loan term.

Full application

Your solicitor will be invited to complete a full application on your behalf, which expands upon the information requested in the pre-screen. Key information regarding case details and dates, assets and liabilities, supporting documentation and financials will be requested.

Your review

To ensure that you remain a key part of the process and that you are happy with the contents of the application, you will be required to approve the application form electronically, before it is sent to Rhea for underwriting.

Underwriting

Rhea will review and assess all information and documents provided in the application at this stage. We may come back with further queries and requests following the initial review. We commit to providing an underwriting decision promptly.

Documents issued for signing

Upon approval of the loan application, documentation will be deposited for download on the online portal. Both you and your solicitor will be able to access these. Documents for signing are sent via an online e-signing platform. We require that you obtain independent legal advice before returning the documents to us. We will be pleased to present a panel of Independent Legal Advisers (“ILA”) to you, should you need assistance.

Complete application

Upon execution of the loan documents, a 14-day cooling off period will commence, during which you may withdraw from or cancel (as applicable) the loan without incurring any fees or interest. Drawdowns are still permitted during the cooling-off period.

Drawdowns

To make a drawdown, your solicitor will request the required amount on your behalf via the online portal and attach the relevant invoice(s). This will automatically be sent to you for approval. Once approved, funds are released on the same or the next working day straight into your solicitor firm's designated client account. Drawdowns can be requested as frequently as required; there are no drawdown fees. Reminders will automatically be sent to you if a drawdown request is outstanding for an extended period. Drawdowns cannot be paid without your approval.

Facility limit increase

If there is a need to increase the facility limit, your solicitor will electronically request this on your behalf on the portal. You are required to approve the request online. Rhea will assess the application for the increase and may carry out further checks (including credit checks). Upon approval, you will be issued with a short and simple amendment letter to sign and return to us. The increased facility will be available to draw down against immediately upon execution of the amendment letter. There are no fees for increasing the limit of the facility; crucially, this means there are no further administration fees.

Loan term extension

Whilst our lending facilities are set for an agreed period (typically 12 to 24 months), we understand that family proceedings can be a lengthy process. Therefore, when the end date is approaching, both yourself and your solicitor will receive reminders to request an extension to the term of the loan.

If there is a need to extend the term of your loan, your solicitor will electronically request an extension on the portal. You are required to approve the request online. Rhea will assess the application for the extension and may carry out further checks (including credit checks). Upon approval, you will be issued with a short and simple amendment letter to sign and return to us. The term will be extended immediately upon execution of the amendment letter. There are no fees for extending the loan term.

Repayment

To make a repayment (in part or in full) at any time, your solicitor can propose a repayment on the portal. This will provide the outstanding balance on the facility, as well as provide Rhea's bank details for bank transfer payment. As soon as the payment has been received, the portal will be updated to reflect the received sums.

FAQ's for borrowers

How does it work?

We work with your solicitors, paying them directly upon receiving your authority to do so. You will need to ask your solicitor to apply for a loan on your behalf. Once your application has been approved, your solicitor will request a drawdown against the facility to pay the invoices they present. You will need to approve each drawdown request before remittance.

What are the charges*?

Interest is only charged on drawn amounts and will be between 14% p.a & 22% p.a, based on the risk and complexity of the case. The rate will be confirmed early in the application stage. This is a simple interest rate and does not compound, i.e. you do not pay interest on interest. There is also a 1.5% admin fee, subject to a minimum amount of £450, which is based upon the total facility amount sought. This fee is payable with the rest of the facility, at the conclusion of proceedings. You do not need to make any periodic payments during the course of the loan.

You must seek independent legal advice once your application has been approved, which is funded by you. We estimate this cost to be in the region of £275 (incl. VAT).

Can I change solicitor?

If you change solicitor and have completed a drawdown of funds, the facility would become due and repayable immediately. However, if your new solicitor has an agreement with Rhea Family Finance, then you can apply for the loan to be transferred over.

What is the lending criteria?

You must be between the ages of 21 and 75, a UK resident and residing in the UK for the duration of the proceedings. Your anticipated settlement amounts must be at least 3 times greater than the amount of the loan request. We will run a credit search, with your permission, and will not lend to those with active CCJs or recent bankruptcy.

Will this affect my credit score?

Rhea will carry out a hard search on your credit file, which may affect your credit score.

Do you take security?

Rhea will take a Deed of Assignment over your share of the proceeds of the financial proceedings. This means that Rhea will be repaid (loan amount + interest + fees) from your divorce settlement proceeds. We will not take a charge over your property.

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FAQ's for borrowers

Does my solicitor have an incentive to offer this product?

Absolutely not. Your solicitor should make it clear to you that this product is available to you, but we do not offer them any incentives for you to obtain finance with us. Your solicitor will not recommend using Rhea Family Finance, only make an introduction.

How can I contact Rhea?

You can reach any of our account managers by telephone on 0207 062 4043 or by e-mail at customer.services@rheafamily.co.uk.

How do I repay the loan?

Upon settlement of your financial proceedings, the loan amount, together with all interest and fees, will be passed directly to Rhea Family Finance by your solicitor. You will be issued a settlement statement by Rhea confirming the completion of the loan and confirming the interest and fees charged. You can also download a statement at any stage from the portal showing the current balance outstanding on your loan.

Can I repay early?

Yes (in part or in full). There are no charges for early repayments of a facility.