

CMS Decision Challenged: Ashton Law Secures Corrected Outcome in Overcharge Case

In a significant recent matter, Ashton Law successfully supported a client in challenging a Child Maintenance Service (CMS) assessment that had resulted in a substantial overpayment due to key information not being properly reflected in the calculation.

The case highlights the importance of accurate assessment, clear communication, and a structured approach when dealing with CMS decisions that may not fully account for an individual's circumstances.

The Issue: An Inaccurate Assessment

The client approached Ashton Law after becoming increasingly concerned that their CMS payments did not accurately reflect their situation.

Despite having made CMS aware of their circumstances, the original assessment failed to properly account for:

- 1 The existence of two additional children
- 2 The financial impact of essential work-related travel
- 3 The overall balance of financial responsibility

As a result, the client was left in a position where the calculated payments were significantly higher than they should have been.

Identifying the Breakdown

From the outset, it was clear that the issue was not simply about disagreement, but about key factors not being correctly applied within the CMS calculation framework.

Ashton Law conducted a structured review of the case, focusing on the original information provided, how it had been interpreted, and where the calculation had failed.

Building a Structured Challenge

With the key issues identified, Ashton Law supported the client in constructing a clear and well-founded challenge.

This included presenting the relevant information clearly, highlighting omissions, and demonstrating how the outcome did not reflect fairness within CMS guidelines.

The Outcome: Restoring Balance

Following the challenge, the case was reassessed with the correct factors taken into account.

The outcome was a reduction of approximately £300 per month in the client's CMS liability, bringing payments back in line with what should have been applied.

Moving Forward

This case reinforces a key point: if something doesn't feel right, it is worth reviewing. Ashton Law continues to support clients in ensuring that decisions reflect both the system and real-life circumstances.