

CROSS SOLICITORS LLP
COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

We are committed to providing a quality legal service to all our clients. Consequently it is essential, when something goes wrong or any client believes they have reason to complain, that we have an effective procedure to assist complete and early resolution of the problem. Only by doing so can we hope to maintain the quality standards we have set, and improve them by learning from what may have gone wrong and what our clients tell us.

The Procedure

Although not essential in making your complaint it would be helpful to us if you could provide details of your concerns in writing (if you have not already done so). If you would prefer not to have to do this, please arrange to see us and we will be pleased to take details from you.

What will happen next

1. Within 2 days of receipt of a complaint, we will register your complaint on our Register (for monitoring and management information purposes).
2. Within 3 days of receipt of a complaint, we will acknowledge receipt of your complaint, set out our understanding of it and request your confirmation or seek any necessary clarification. We will also confirm who will deal with your complaint.
3. We will then commence investigation into your complaint. This may involve one or more of the following steps:
 - a) We will ask the case worker who acted for you to provide us with a response to your complaint within 5 days.
 - b) Within 3 days of receipt of the response and the file, we will examine the response and the file as against your complaint and, if necessary, speak to the case worker.
 - c) Within 7 days, we will then consider your complaint in the light of what the file reveals and the case worker's response.
4. We will then, within a further 3 days, write to you with a detailed response and invite you to meet with us to discuss and hopefully resolve your complaint.
5. If a meeting between us takes place we will write to you within 2 days of the meeting to confirm what took place and detailing any agreed solution that was reached.
6. If a meeting is declined or is for some reason impractical we will write to you again in an endeavour to resolve the complaint to our mutual satisfaction, within 5 days of the meeting being declined.
7. If, at a meeting or from your written reply to our detailed written response, you remain dissatisfied with what we have said and how we propose resolving your complaint, we will arrange for our decision to be reviewed. This may happen in one of the following ways: -
 - a) Within 5 days, our own review of our handling of your complaint and why you are dissatisfied with our decision
 - b) Within 10 days, by arranging for someone else in the firm who is entirely unconnected with the complaint to review how it was handled and the decision taken.
 - c) Within 10 days, by asking our local law society or another local firm of solicitors to review our handling of, and the decision on, your complaint (if they are willing to do this).
8. Within 5 days after the review has taken place you will be informed of the outcome.

We have eight weeks to consider your complaint. If you remain dissatisfied at the end of our complaints process, you would then be at liberty to contact the Legal Ombudsman, an organisation which investigates complaints about poor service from lawyers. The Legal Ombudsman can investigate complaints up to six years from the date of the problem happening or within three years of when you found out about the problem. If you wish to refer your complaint to the Legal Ombudsman, this must be done within six months of our final response to your complaint.

If you would like more information about the Legal Ombudsman, their contact details are as follows:-

- Visit www.legalombudsman.org.uk
- Call 0300 555 0333 between 8.30am to 5.30pm (calls to 03 numbers will cost no more than calls to national geographic numbers (starting 01 or 02) from both mobiles and landlines. Calls are recorded and may be used for training and monitoring purposes.)
- For minicom call 0300 555 1777
- e-mail enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk
- Postal address: Legal Ombudsman, PO Box 6806, Wolverhampton, WV1 9WJ

The Solicitors Regulation Authority can also help you if you are concerned about our behaviour. This could be for things like dishonesty, taking or losing your money or treating you unfairly because of your age, a disability or other characteristic. You can raise your concerns with the [Solicitors Regulation Authority](http://www.sra.org.uk).