



SA LAW COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Introduction

We regard a complaint as any expression of dissatisfaction whether expressed verbally or in writing.

SA Law are committed to providing a high quality service. If, however, you have a complaint or are dissatisfied with our service, please tell us about it. This will help us to resolve your difficulty and improve our standards.

Our Complaints Procedure

If you have a complaint, in the first instance please speak to the person handling your case. If an issue arises which cannot be resolved, please then discuss the problem with the person with overall responsibility for your matter as set out in our Terms and Conditions of Engagement. If your matter still remains unresolved, please then contact Chris Wilks, our nominated Compliance Officer for the Legal Practice (COLP). You can contact him by telephone on 01727 798081, by email at chris.wilks@salaw.com or write to him at:

Gladstone Place
36-38 Upper Marlborough Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 3UU

We set out below what will then happen.

What will happen next?

- 1 We will send you a letter acknowledging your complaint and asking you to confirm or explain the details as set out (if necessary). You should receive an acknowledgement of your complaint within 5 working days.
- 2 Upon receipt your complaint will be recorded in our central register.
- 3 We will acknowledge your reply if any, and will confirm what will happen next. You can expect to hear from us within 5 working days of our receiving your reply.
- 4 We will then start to investigate your complaint and inform you of the timescale within which we anticipate being able to respond. This may involve one or more of the following steps:
 - Examination of your file
 - Discussion with the member of staff and supervising Partner
- 5 We will then either write to you (see paragraph 7 below) or within 21 days of the date of receipt of your letter of complaint, invite you to meet the supervising Partner and/or Christopher Wilks to discuss and hopefully resolve your complaint.
- 6 If we meet with you we will, within 14 days of the date of that meeting, write to you to confirm what took place and any solutions that we have agreed with you.
- 7 If you do not want a meeting or it is not convenient, we will send to you within 35 days of the date of receipt of your letter of complaint, a detailed reply to that complaint. This will include our suggestions for resolving the matter.



- 8 At this stage, if you are still not satisfied please let us know. Chris Wilks will then arrange to review the decision and may place the matter before SA Law's Client Care Group. If for any reason we are unable to resolve the problem between us then you may refer the matter to the Legal Ombudsman: PO Box 6806, Wolverhampton WV1 9WJ who provides a non-judicial means of dispute settlement for those cases that fall within his remit. Please note that ordinarily you must refer your complaint to the Legal Ombudsman within six months from the date of our written response to your complaint or within six years from the act/omission occurring or three years from when you should have known it had occurred. However, the Ombudsman has a discretion to accept complaints outside of these time limits in exceptional circumstances. Whilst the Ombudsman is able to deal with most complaints you should contact his office to confirm whether or not he is able to deal with your particular issue (0300 555 0333) or refer to www.legalombudsman.org.uk.
- 9 If we have to change the timescales above we will let you know and explain why.