

HCR Legal LLP Complaints Handling Procedure

Our complaints policy

We are committed to providing a high-quality legal service and to deal with all our clients fairly. When something goes wrong, we need you to tell us about it. This will help us to improve our standards.

This procedure is intended for clients of this firm. If you are not a client but wish to make a complaint, we will investigate and provide you with a response. However, use of this procedure in these circumstances is at our discretion.

If you are a client of this firm but need to appoint a representative to raise the complaint on your behalf, please complete and return the attached Representative Authority Form.

The time limits specified below for how we aim to handle your complaints will not come into force until we have received the completed form in circumstances where a representative is required. This is because we cannot discuss the complaints received, or any client matter, without our client's express permission to do so.

Please note that your complaint file will be handled separately to your retainer with this firm. If you wish for someone to complain on your behalf or there are multiple parties to the complaint, a specific authority form must be completed so we are sure that you, as our client, wish to have complaints raised and reviewed on your behalf.

How do I make a complaint?

1. You can contact us by:
 - Telephone - 01905 612001
 - Email – complaints@hcrlaw.com
 - Letter – addressed to 5 Deansway,
Worcester,
WR1 2JG.

Our Complaints Manager is Sophie Hadley-Hall, and our Complaints Partner is Lesley-Ann Hamlyn.

2. To help us to understand your complaint, please tell us:
 - a. Your full name and correct current contact details,
 - b. Details of what you think we have got wrong,
 - c. Any evidence you have to support your complaint,
 - d. What you hope to achieve as a result of having your complaint reviewed, and
 - e. Your file reference number (if you have it) so that we can locate your original matter.

What will happen next?

3. We will send you a letter or email acknowledging receipt of your complaint within three working days of us receiving the complaint, enclosing a copy of this procedure.
4. We will then investigate your complaint. This will normally involve passing your complaint to the relevant Partner who is/was supervising your matter. He/she will review your complaint and your file and speak to the person who dealt with your matter. We may need to ask you for further information or for further documentation. If so, we will ask you to provide the information within a specific period of time. If the complaint involves the supervising Partner, he/she will refer it to another Partner and will confirm who will deal with it.
5. We will write to you by letter or email at the end of our investigation. This will tell you what we have found and what we propose to do to resolve your complaint, where we feel it is necessary for us to do something to resolve matters.
6. Where possible, we will aim to do this within 28 days of the date of our letter or email of acknowledgement. In circumstances where a representative is appointed to be your point of contact, we will aim to do this within 28 days of receipt of the completed representative authority form. We cannot discuss your complaints with your appointed representative without it.
7. If we have to change any of the timescales above, we will let you know and explain why.
8. The Legal Ombudsman allows us 8 weeks to try to reach a resolution to your complaint.

What if I am not satisfied with the outcome?

9. If you are not satisfied with our response to your complaint, you can contact the Legal Ombudsman and ask them to consider matters further. You can contact the Legal Ombudsman by post, telephone or email:

Legal Ombudsman
PO Box 6167
Slough
SL1 0EH

Telephone: 0300 555 0333
E-mail: enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk
Visit: www.legalombudsman.org.uk
For minicom call 0300 555 1777

The Legal Ombudsman expects complaints to be made to them within one year of the date of the act or omission about which you are concerned or within one year of you realising there was a concern. You must also refer your concerns to the Legal Ombudsman within six months of our final response to you. Further details are available on the Legal Ombudsman's website.

What will it cost?

10. We will not charge you for handling your complaint.
11. Please note that if we have issued a bill for work done on the matter, and all or some of the bill is not paid, we may be entitled to charge interest on the amount outstanding.
12. The Legal Ombudsman service is also free of charge.

Solicitors Regulation Authority – our regulatory body

If you think a solicitor may have been dishonest or you have concerns about their ethics and/or integrity, you also have the right to notify our regulator, the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA).

There are no time limits for making a report but there are limits on what the SRA will consider. They may require evidence from you to demonstrate the issues raised with them, to allow them to investigate matters.

Please note that the SRA is not able to deal with issues of unreasonable service. Complaints of this nature should instead be referred to the Legal Ombudsman using the details above, after a complaint has first been raised with the firm.

For further information about the SRA's role, please contact the SRA. Their address is:

Solicitors Regulation Authority
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

or visit: <https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/report-solicitor.page#report>



Representative Authority Form for Complaints

Matter Reference: _____

Representative's Relationship To Client: _____

	Client Details	Representative Details
Full Name		
Correspondence Address		
Contact Number		
Email Address		

I, the undersigned, hereby give my express written authority to the below named representative, to raise complaints on my behalf. I agree that the firm may discuss the complaints, and any associated client matter, with the below named representative, to review and respond to my complaints. I understand that information may be disclosed from my file, relating to my complaints, and I confirm that I consent to this.

SIGNED.....Dated:.....

NAME (CAPITALS).....

I, the undersigned, agree to act as the representative and point of contact for the person named above, for the purposes of raising their complaint.

SIGNED.....Dated:.....

NAME (CAPITALS).....