

St James Solicitors

Complaints Procedure

Our Complaints Policy

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

Our Complaints Procedure

If you have a complaint, please contact Peter Woodley, our Client Care Partner. If your complaint relates to Peter Woodley then please contact Jeremy Wickham.

If your complaint relates to data protection/ handling, then please contact Jeremy Wickham.

If we have to change any of the timescales or responsibilities set out below we will let you know and explain why.

What will happen next?

1. Within seven working days we will send a letter acknowledging your complaint and asking you to confirm or explain any details. If it seems appropriate we will suggest a meeting at this stage.
2. We will then record your complaint in our central register. We will also investigate your complaint by examining the relevant file and speaking with the member of our team who acted for you.

3. If appropriate we will then invite you to meet Peter Woodley to discuss and hopefully resolve your complaint. We would hope to be in a position to meet you in this way within ten working days after first receiving your complaint. If you would prefer not to meet, or if we cannot arrange this within an acceptable timescale, we will write fully to you setting out our views on the situation and any redress that we would feel to be appropriate.
4. Within three working days of any meeting we will write to you to confirm what took place and any suggestions we have agreed with you. In appropriate cases we could offer an apology, a reduction of any bill or a repayment in relation to any payment received.
5. At this stage if you are still not satisfied, please let us know. We will then arrange to review our decision. We would generally aim to do this within ten working days. This will happen in one of the following ways;
 - Peter Woodley will review his own decision
 - We will arrange for our other partner Jeremy Wickham (who will not have been involved in your complaint) to review it
6. We will let you know the result of the review within fourteen days of the end of the process, if the complaint is a complex issue, this may take longer. At this time we will write to you confirming our final position on your complaint and explaining our reasons.
7. If a complaint has not been resolved to your satisfaction within 8 weeks of it being made, you can contact the Legal Ombudsman about your complaint. The question of which complaints are covered by the legal Ombudsman is governed by the scheme rules published by the Ombudsman. Any complaint to the Legal Ombudsman must normally be made within 6 months of receiving a final written response from us about your complaint and within 6 years of the act or omission about which you are complaining (or if outside this period, within three years of when you should reasonably have been aware of it).

The address and contact details for the Legal Ombudsman are set out below.

Legal Ombudsman

PO Box 6167, Slough, SL1 0EH.

www.legalombudsman.org.uk

enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk

0300 555 0333

You can report a solicitor for misconduct through the SRA website and details are on this link

<https://www.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/report-solicitor/>

Alternative complaints bodies such as ProMediate (www.promediate.co.uk) exist which are ADR certified and competent to deal with complaints about legal services should both you and our firm wish to use such a scheme. We do not agree to use ProMediate as the legal Ombudsman already works in a similar way although not currently ADR certified