

Complaints policy for clients and third parties

1. INTRODUCTION

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. If at any point you become unhappy with the service we provide to you or you have concerns about your bill, then you should inform us immediately so that we can do our best to resolve the problem for you

2. HOW DO I MAKE A COMPLAINT?

- 2.1 You can contact us in writing (by letter, fax or email) or by speaking with our complaints manager
- 2.2 To help us to understand your complaint, and in order that we do not miss anything, please tell us:
 - 2.2.1 your full name and contact details
 - 2.2.2 what you think we have got wrong
 - 2.2.3 what you hope to achieve as a result of your complaint, and
 - 2.2.4 your file reference number (if you have it)
- 2.3 If you require any help in making your complaint we will try to help you

3. HOW WILL YOU DEAL WITH MY COMPLAINT?

- 3.1 We will record your complaint centrally.
- 3.2 We will write to you within three working days acknowledging your complaint, enclosing a copy of this policy.
- 3.3 We will investigate your complaint. This will usually involve:
 - 3.3.1 reviewing your complaint
 - 3.3.2 reviewing your file(s) and other relevant documents, and
 - 3.3.3 speaking with the person who dealt with your matter
- 3.4 We may also need to ask you for further information or documents. If so, we will ask you to provide the information within a specific period of time.
- 3.5 We will update you on the progress of your complaint at appropriate times
- 3.6 We may also, if appropriate, invite you to a meeting to discuss your complaint. You do not have to attend if you do not wish to or if you are unable to. We will be happy to discuss the matter with you on the telephone
- 3.7 We will write to you at the end of our investigation to tell you what we have done and what we propose to do to resolve your complaint. Where possible, we will aim to do this within 21 days of the date of our letter of acknowledgement.
- 3.8 All personal information you provide will be collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), please refer to our Privacy Policy for further information, which can be provided upon request. A link to this policy can also be found on our website www.emgsolicitors.com.

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4. WHAT IF I AM NOT SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME?

- 4.1 If you are unhappy with the outcome of our complaints handling procedure please first let us know and we will review the matter.
- 4.2 If you are still unhappy you can ask the Legal Ombudsman to look into your complaint. You can contact the Legal Ombudsman:
 - 4.2.1 by post at PO Box 6806, Wolverhampton, WV1 9WJ
 - 4.2.2 by telephone: 0300 555 0333, or
 - 4.2.3 by email: enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk
- 4.3 You must usually refer your complaint to the Legal Ombudsman within six months of our final written response to your complaint and within six years of the act or omission about which you are complaining occurring (or within three years of you becoming aware of it). Further details are available on the website: www.legalombudsman.org.uk.

5. WHAT WILL IT COST?

- 5.1 We will not charge you for handling your complaint.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The Legal Ombudsman service is free of charge.