



How to donate unclaimed client balances:

Where solicitors have funds for which they can not find the owner, they may withdraw the money with the approval of the Solicitors Regulation Authority under Rule 22(1)(h) of the Solicitors Accounts Rules 1998. That approval is usually given only if the payment proposed is to a charity which is prepared to give an undertaking to repay the money if a valid claim is subsequently made to the money. The Rules were amended on 14 July 2008 allowing **balances of £50 or less** of unclaimed funds per client to be released to charity without SRA approval.

The Rules can be found at: www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/code-of-conduct/accounts-rules.page

For balances over £50 per client the SRA approval is required. The Law Society Charity is happy to receive such funds and will provide an indemnity for the amount received where any necessary SRA approval has been obtained.

You will need to tell the SRA the amount(s) in question, the length of time the money has been held and what attempts have been made to contact the client, or evidence that the reasonable costs of doing so are likely to be excessive in relation to the money held. The SRA may ask that your accountant provides a letter of verification.

Contact details for the SRA for this purpose are:

Email: professional.ethics@sra.org.uk
Telephone (helpline): 0870 606 2577
Write to: The Solicitors Regulation Authority, Professional Ethics,
Ipsley Court, Berrington Close, Redditch B98 0TD
DX 19114 Redditch

The Trustees of the Law Society Charity welcome receipt of such funds.

To donate to the Law Society Charity please:

- send your cheque, payable to "The Law Society Charity," to The Secretary, Law Society Charity, 113 Chancery Lane, WC2A 1PL and enclose copies of:
- your application to the SRA; and
- a copy of the approval letter from the SRA, where that is appropriate.

On receipt of your cheque we will send you an immediate acknowledgement and an indemnity from the charity. [It is not the Trustees' normal practice to pay interest on sums repaid, but applications will be considered on their merit.]

If you require any further information please contact Jill Moffatt t 020 7242 1222 or email LawSocietyCharity@lawsociety.org.uk.

Thank you very much for considering the Law Society Charity.

We are very grateful for your support.