

# *Your guide to* Finding expert legal help

## Expert help

Many solicitors concentrate their work in one or two areas of law. They can offer you skilled, professional legal advice and services.

Some solicitors are accredited by the Law Society in their area of specialisation.

Our accreditation schemes award a quality mark to law firms, practices and individual solicitors who meet the highest standards of expertise and client service in the following areas of law:

- Children law
- Civil and commercial mediation
- Clinical negligence
- Conveyancing
- Criminal litigation
- Family law
- Family mediation
- Immigration and asylum law
- Mental health
- Personal injury
- Planning law
- Wills and inheritance

## Where to look

Go to our Find a Solicitor website – [www.lawsociety.org.uk/findasolicitor](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/findasolicitor) – to search for the contact details of your nearest accredited law firm, practice or solicitor.

When you see one of our accreditation scheme logos, you'll know that the practitioner's expert skills, knowledge and experience have been rigorously tested.

## Your guide to Finding expert legal help



Contact a **Children Law Accreditation Scheme** member if you need specialist help in matters such as care proceedings, family breakdowns, residence, contact, emergency protection, adoption, parental responsibility and human rights.



Mediation involves a trained, neutral third party using their skills to bring two sides in a dispute to a resolution, without resorting to litigation. While **Civil and Commercial Mediation Accreditation Scheme** members may specialise in certain kinds of disputes, they have good general dispute resolution and mediation skills.



**Clinical Negligence Accreditation Scheme** members provide advice and assistance with claims arising from medical or dental negligence matters.



Buying or selling a home is one of the biggest transactions most of us ever make. By choosing a member of the **Conveyancing Quality Scheme** you can be sure that your conveyancer meets the high standards set by the Law Society, and that you will get a professional, high quality conveyancing service.

# Your guide to Finding expert legal help



If you have been charged with a criminal offence, a member of the **Criminal Litigation Accreditation Scheme** will be able to give you advice. They are experienced in helping with criminal charges. Motoring offences are the most common.



**Family Law Accreditation Scheme** members specialise in family law issues such as divorce, separation, division of family assets, cohabitation, maintenance and family disputes.



**Family Law Advanced Accreditation Scheme** members provide advice and assistance to clients in more complex family law cases.



Contact a **Family Mediation Accreditation Scheme** member if you need mediation services in family and matrimonial disputes. Family mediators may specialise in children-only or financial-only mediation.

# Your guide to Finding expert legal help



## Immigration & Asylum

Solicitors and solicitors' employees on the **Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme** can help with asylum, general immigration and business-related immigration applications. They also advise on aspects of welfare, the legal system, legal aid, taxation and corporate issues that affect immigrants and asylum seekers.



## Immigration Law Advanced

All Law Society immigration and asylum accredited legal experts go through rigorous examination and testing to demonstrate that they have a high level of knowledge, skills and experience. If your case is very complicated, you might want to find a member of the **Immigration Law Advanced Scheme**.



## Mental Health

**Mental Health Accreditation Scheme** members advise and represent patients at tribunal hearings where detained patients' cases are reviewed and discharge decisions are taken. Members often offer legal advice on other aspects of mental illness and incapacity.



## Personal Injury

**Personal Injury Accreditation Scheme** members provide advice and representation to people who have sustained personal injury and to relatives of those who have been fatally injured as the result of an act of alleged negligence and/or breach of statutory duty.

# *Your guide to* Finding expert legal help



**Planning Law Accreditation Scheme** members advise on all aspects of the planning process – including planning applications and appeals, enforcement, listed building and conservation area applications, compulsory purchases, tree preservation orders, development on contaminated land and other situations in which special planning controls apply.



When making a will it is vital that you get advice you can rely on. The **Wills and Inheritance Quality Scheme** is the recognised quality mark for legal experts in drafting wills and dealing with your estate after your death. Accredited practices must follow best practice procedures to meet the highest standards of technical expertise and client service.

Visit [www.lawsociety.org.uk/accreditation](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/accreditation) for further details of services offered by Law Society accredited specialists.

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We can make the information in this leaflet available in other formats on request.

Email [accessibility@lawsociety.org.uk](mailto:accessibility@lawsociety.org.uk)

## More information

This is one of a series of free leaflets covering the most common types of legal services that solicitors provide. Other leaflets in the series are listed below.

You can get them from your solicitor or from [www.lawsociety.org.uk/commonlegalproblems](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/commonlegalproblems)

**Your guide to buying a home**

**Your guide to making a will**

**Your guide to getting a divorce**

**Your guide to problems at work**

**Your guide to setting up a business**

**Your guide to making a personal injury claim**

**Your guide to financial matters for older people**

**Your guide to renting out your property**

**Your guide to renting a home**

**Your guide to using a solicitor**

**Your guide to probate**

**Your guide to claiming asylum**

**Your guide to setting up home with your partner**

**Lexcel**

Look for Lexcel – the legal quality mark

The Law Society 113 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1PL [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

While we have made every effort to provide accurate information, the law is always changing and affects each person differently. This leaflet is no substitute for specific advice about you personally and we will not be liable to you if you rely on this leaflet.