

Compensation Fund

Unpaid counsel's, expert's or agent's fees

Last updated: 19 April 2004

Please remember the following points.

1. The aim of the Compensation Fund is to replace money that a solicitor has misused or has not accounted for. We can only pay the outstanding fees if you can show that the solicitor had enough money to do so.
2. If the solicitor's practice has been closed, or he or she is insolvent and you are applying for counsel's fees, you should apply to the Legal Services Commission under the guidelines issued by the Legal Aid Board in October 1998. Counsel should only ask for our help if there is evidence that the solicitor had received funds on behalf of the client, which included any fees that were due to counsel.
3. You should send us the application for a grant for these fees, along with:
 - copies of all unpaid fee notes;
 - the name of the client on whose behalf the instructions were given;
 - details of the case (for example, litigation, divorce proceedings, conveyancing and so on); and
 - the date the fee note was first delivered to the solicitor.
4. We will try to find out whether the solicitor had received the money to pay the fees, but this may not be possible if the fee note has not been paid for a long time. If we cannot get this evidence, we may reject the application.

For alternative formats, email info.services@sra.org.uk or telephone 0870 606 2555.