

Your guide to finding expert legal help

The independent regulatory body of the Law Society of England and Wales



Are you looking for expert legal help? Learn how to find a solicitor whose expert skills and experience have been accredited by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

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 Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) in their area of specialisation. SRA-accredited specialists—known as accreditation scheme members—have expert skills, knowledge and experience that are tested and certified against the highest standards.

Scheme members offer expert help with problems and issues in many areas of the law:

- **Children law**
- **Civil and commercial mediation**
- **Clinical negligence**
- **Family law**
- **Family mediation**
- **Immigration law**
- **Mental Health Review Tribunals**
- **Personal injury**
- **Planning law**

Where to look



At www.solicitors-online.org.uk search for the contact details of a scheme member near you. Look for this symbol (left)—it means a scheme member works at the firm.

Or telephone **0870 606 2555**, describe the legal issue you're facing, state your postcode, and ask for the contact details of a nearby scheme member.

In telephone directories or on the high street, look for firms of solicitors that display SRA-accredited logos; they are exclusively displayed by firms with scheme members.

Accreditation Scheme members can help

All scheme members have completed a range of demanding tests, including exams, interviews and role play assessments. Their skills, knowledge and experience—in their area of specialisation—have been certified against SRA standards.



Contact a **Children Panel Accreditation Scheme** member if you need specialist help with care proceedings. They can also help with matters such as 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.



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 Accreditation Scheme (Advanced) members provide advice and assistance to clients in more-complex family law cases.

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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.



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.



Mental Health Review Tribunal 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 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.



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.

Visit www.accredited-solicitors.sra.org.uk for further details of services offered by SRA-accredited specialists.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority, Ipsley Court, Berrington Close, Redditch Worcestershire B98 0TD
Phone: **0870 606 2555** www.sra.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.