
COMPLAINTS POLICY

At Arnold Thomson, we are committed to providing a high-quality legal service and to dealing with all our clients fairly. We acknowledge that we may not always get it right so if something has gone wrong, including in relation to the bill, we need you to tell us.

HOW DO I MAKE A COMPLAINT?

You can contact us in writing (by letter, fax or email) or by speaking with our Complaints Director, whose contact details are:

Matt Hawkins

Director & Complaints Manager

Arnold Thomson Solicitors

205 Watling Street West

Towcester Northants

NN12 6BX.

Or via email at matt.hawkins@arnoldthomson.com

To help us understand your complaint, and in order that we do not miss anything, please tell us:

- your full name and contact details;
- what you think we have got wrong;
- what you hope to achieve as a result of your complaint; and
- your file reference number (if you have it).

If you require any help in making your complaint, we will be happy to assist you.

HOW WILL YOU DEAL WITH MY COMPLAINT?

We will record your complaint centrally. We will write to you within 5 (five) working days acknowledging your complaint and enclosing a copy of this policy. We will investigate your complaint. This will usually involve:

- reviewing your complaint
- reviewing your file(s) and other relevant documents, and

- speaking with the person who dealt with your matter.

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.

We will update you on the progress of your complaint at appropriate times. 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, via email or post, whichever method suits you best.

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 14 days of the date of our letter of acknowledgement.

WHAT IF I AM NOT SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME?

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our complaints handling procedure, please first let us know and we will further review the matter.

If you are still unhappy after the review, you can ask the Legal Ombudsman to investigate your complaint. They are an independent complaints body established under the Legal Services Act, who can investigate complaints about the legal service you have received from us.

The contact details for the Legal Ombudsman are as set out below:

- by post at PO Box 6806, Wolverhampton, WV1 9WJ
- by telephone: 0300 555 0333, or
- by email: enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk

You must usually refer your complaint to the Legal Ombudsman within six months of our final written response to your complaint, and within one year of the act or omission about which you are complaining occurring, (or within one year of you becoming aware of it). Further details are available on their website: www.legalombudsman.org.uk.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

We will not charge you for handling your complaint. Please note that if we have issued a bill for work done on the matter, and all or some of the bill remains unpaid, we may be entitled to charge interest on the amount outstanding.

The Legal Ombudsman service is also free of charge.