



Solicitors Act 1974

CHAPTER 47

SOLICITORS ACT 1974

PART I

RIGHT TO PRACTISE AS SOLICITOR

Qualifications and training

- 1 Qualifications for practising as solicitor.
- 1A Practising certificates: employed solicitors.
- 1B Restriction on practice as sole solicitor
- 2 Training regulations.

Admission

- 3 Admission as solicitor.
- 4
- 5

The roll

- 6 Keeping of the roll.
- 7 Entry of name and restoration of name struck off.
- 8 Removal or restoration of name at solicitor's request.

Practising certificates

- 9 Applications for practising certificates.
- 10 Issue of practising certificates.
- 10A Register of holders of practising certificates
- 11 Fees payable on issue of practising certificates.

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- 12 Discretion of Society with respect to issue of practising certificates in special cases.
- 12A Additional fee payable by certain solicitors on applying for practising certificates.
- 13 Appeals etc in connection with the issue of practising certificates.
- 13ZA Application to practise as sole practitioner while practising certificate in force
- 13ZB Fee payable on making of sole solicitor endorsement
- 13A Imposition of conditions while practising certificates are in force.
- 13B Suspension of practising certificates where solicitors convicted of fraud or serious crime.
- 14 Commencement, expiry and replacement of practising certificates.
- 15 Suspension of practising certificates.
- 16 Duration of suspension of practising certificates.
- 17 Publicity in relation to suspension of practising certificates.
- 17A Suspension of sole solicitor endorsement
- 17B Duration and publicity of suspension of sole solicitor endorsement
- 18 Extracts from the roll or register etc as evidence.

Rights and privileges of solicitors

- 19 Rights of practising and rights of audience.

Unqualified persons acting as solicitors

- 20 Unqualified person not to act as solicitor.
- 21 Unqualified person not to pretend to be a solicitor.
- 22 Unqualified person not to prepare certain instruments.
- 22A Powers of entry etc. of local weights and measures authorities.
- 23 Unqualified person not to prepare papers for probate etc.
- 24 Application of penal provisions to body corporate.
- 25 Costs where unqualified person acts as solicitor.
- 26 Time limit for commencement of certain proceedings.
- 27 Saving for persons authorised to conduct legal proceedings.

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- 28 Regulations.
- 29 Non-British subjects as solicitors. 12 & 13 Will. 3. c. 2.
- 30 Evidence as to solicitors in Scotland.

PART II

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Practice rules

- 31 Rules as to professional practice, conduct and discipline.

Accounts etc.

- 32 Accounts rules and trust accounts rules.
- 33 Interest on clients' money.
- 33A Inspection of practice bank accounts etc.
- 34 Accountants' reports.

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Sole solicitors

- 34A Employees of solicitors
- 34B Employees of solicitors: accounts rules etc

Intervention in solicitor's practice, Compensation Fund and professional indemnity

- 35 Intervention in solicitor's practice.
- 36 Compensation grants.
- 36A Compensation funds
- 37 Professional indemnity.

Inadequate professional services

- 37A Redress for inadequate professional services.

Restrictions on practice as solicitor

- 38 Solicitor who is justice of the peace not to act in certain proceedings.
- 39
- 40 Solicitor not to commence or defend actions while in prison.

Restrictions on employment of certain persons

- 41 Employment by solicitor of person struck off or suspended.
- 42 Failure to disclose fact of having been struck off or suspended.
- 43 Control of solicitors' employees and consultants.
- 44 Offences in connection with orders under section 43(2).

Imposition by Council of disciplinary sanctions for inadequate professional services

- 44A Power of Council to impose sanctions for inadequate professional services.

Examination of files

- 44B Provision of information and documents by solicitors etc
- 44BA Power to require explanation of document or information
- 44BB Provision of information and documents by other persons
- 44BC Information offences

Costs of investigations

- 44C Power to charge for costs of investigations.
- 45

Disciplinary powers of the Society

- 44D Disciplinary powers of the Society
- 44E Appeals against disciplinary action under section 44D

Disciplinary proceedings before Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal

- 46 Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal.
- 46A Funding of the Tribunal
- 47 Jurisdiction and powers of Tribunal.
- 47A Power of Tribunal to impose sanctions for inadequate professional services.

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- 48 Orders of Tribunal.
- 49 Appeals from Tribunal.
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- 50 Jurisdiction of Senior Courts over solicitors.
- 51 Procedure upon certain applications to High Court.
- 52 Power of Society to draw up order of court.
- 53 Production of order of court to Society.

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- 54 Restrictions on powers to strike names off roll.
- 55 Applications to require solicitor to answer allegations.

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- 56 Orders as to remuneration for non-contentious business.
- 57 Non-contentious business agreements.
- 58 Remuneration of a solicitor who is a mortgagee.

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- 59 Contentious business agreements.
- 60 Effect of contentious business agreements.
- 61 Enforcement of contentious business agreements.
- 62 Contentious business agreements by certain representatives.
- 63 Effect on contentious business agreement of death, incapability or change of solicitor.
- 64 Form of bill of costs for contentious business.
- 65 Security for costs and termination of retainer.
- 66 Assessments with respect to contentious business.

Remuneration—general

- 67 Inclusion of disbursements in bill of costs.
- 68 Power of court to order solicitor to deliver bill, etc.
- 69 Action to recover solicitor's costs.
- 70 Assessment on application of party chargeable or solicitor.
- 71 Assessment on application of third parties.
- 72 Supplementary provisions as to assessments.
- 73 Charging orders.
- 74 Special provisions as to contentious business done in county courts.
- 75 Saving for certain enactments.

PART IV

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

The Society

- 76 Non-practising solicitors eligible for membership of Society.
- 77 Annual subscription to Society.

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- 78 Cessation and suspension of membership of Society.
- 79 Discharge of the Council's functions
- 80 Powers to act on behalf of Society.

Miscellaneous

- 81 Administration of oaths and taking of affidavits.
- 81A Fees for administering oaths and taking affidavits.
- 82
- 83 Power of Society to inspect file of proceedings in bankruptcy of solicitor.
- 84 Service of documents at solicitor's place of business.
- 85 Bank accounts.
- 86 Bankers' books.

Supplementary

- 86A Rules
- 87 Interpretation.
- 88 Saving for solicitors to public departments and City of London.
- 89 Consequential amendments, repeals, savings, etc.
- 90 Short title, commencement and extent.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Intervention in Solicitor's Practice

Part I — CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH SOCIETY MAY INTERVENE

- 1 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the powers conferred by Part...
- 2 On the death of a sole solicitor paragraphs 6 to...
- 3 The powers conferred by Part II of this Schedule shall...
- 4 (1) Where the powers conferred by Part II of this...

Part II — POWERS EXERCISABLE ON INTERVENTION

Money

- 5 (1) The High Court, on the application of the Society,...
- 6 (1) Without prejudice to paragraph 5, if the Society passes...
- 6A (1) Without prejudice to paragraph 5, if the Society passes...
- 6B (1) The Society may make rules governing its treatment of...
- 7 (1) If the Society takes possession of any sum of...
- 8 Without prejudice to paragraphs 5 to 7, if the High...

Documents

- 9 (1) The Society may give notice to the solicitor or...

Mail and other forms of communication

- 10 (1) The High Court, on the application of the Society,...

Trusts

- 11 (1) If the solicitor or his personal representative is a...

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General

- 12 The powers in relation to sums of money , documents...
- 13 Subject to any order for the payment of costs that...
- 13A (1) The High Court, on the application of the Society,...
- 14 Where an offence under this Schedule committed by a body...
- 15 Any application to the High Court under this Schedule may...
- 16 The Society may do all things which are reasonably necessary...

SCHEDULE 1A — INADEQUATE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- 1 Circumstances in which Council's powers may be exercised
- 2 Directions which may be given
- 3 Compensation
- 4 Taxation of costs
- 5 Failure to comply with direction
- 6 Fees
- 7 Costs
- 8 Duty of Tribunal
- 9 Interpretation

SCHEDULE 2 —

- 1 The fund shall be maintained and administered by the Society...
- 2 (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (2A), every solicitor—
- 3 The Society may invest any money which forms part of...
- 4 . . . the Society may borrow for the purposes...
- 5 The Society may insure with authorised insurers for such purposes...
- 6 There shall be carried to the credit of the fund—...
- 7 All money from time to time forming part of the...

SCHEDULES 3 — CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 In section 20(3) of the Justices of the Peace Act...
- 5
- 6 In section 192(2) of the County Courts Act 1959 (as...
- 7
- 8 In section 4(2) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1967, for...
- 9 In section 223(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, for...
- 10

Schedule 4 — ENACTMENTS REPEALED

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 1A(d) modified by [2007 c. 29 Sch. 22 para. 12](#)
- s. 24(2) excluded by [1986 c. 53 Sch. 21 para. 7\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 21 repealed (22.7.2004) by 2004 c. 14, Sch. 1 Pt. 17 Group 2)
- s. 48(2) words substituted by [1985 c. 61 Sch. 7 para. 5](#)
- s. 49(3) words added by [1985 c. 61 Sch. 7 para. 6](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 44D(2A)-(2C) inserted by [2023 c. 56 s. 207\(1\)](#)