

Instructing a solicitor

It's important that you feel confident and well-informed, and that you are well-prepared before you start to [instruct](https://update.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#instruct) a solicitor or [lawyer](https://update.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#lawyer) to make sure you get the best [outcome](https://update.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#outcome), so we've prepared some information about

- the best way to [choose a solicitor](https://update.sra.org.uk/consumers/choosing/) or other legal service provider
- useful tips for [getting the best from your solicitor](https://update.sra.org.uk/consumers/choosing/get-best-solicitor/)
- [what to expect from a solicitor](https://update.sra.org.uk/consumers/choosing/what-to-expect/) regulated by us
- [costs, including legal aid and other sources of legal advice](https://update.sra.org.uk/consumers/instructing/costs-legal-aid/); and
- some [common legal terms](https://update.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained) you might come across.

For a quick introduction to using legal services, read our leaflet [Thinking of using legal services? What to expect \(PDF, 4 pages, 511K\)](https://update.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/consumers/thinking-using-legal-services.pdf). This information is also available in a [shortened format \(PDF, 2 pages, 498K\)](https://update.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/consumers/shortened-consumer-leaflet.pdf) and several [community languages](https://update.sra.org.uk/consumers/choosing/what-to-expect/community-languages/).

You can find key facts about other types of lawyers and common legal problems such as going to court, family disputes, employment problems on the [Legal Choices website](https://www.legalchoices.org.uk/).