

OUR COMPLAINTS POLICY

Thompsons are committed to providing a quality legal service. If you believe something has gone wrong or are dissatisfied with our service, we have a procedure to assist the early resolution of the problem. Our aim is to uphold the quality standards we have set ourselves and improve upon them by learning from mistakes and from what our clients tell us about it. This will help us to improve our standards.

THE PROCEDURE

Although it is not essential, in making your complaint it would be helpful if you could provide details of your concerns in writing. Your complaint should be addressed to the Branch Manager at the office handling your case. The Branch Manager will retain overall responsibility for the complaint even if the investigation and review is undertaken by someone else designated by them to deal with the matter. This will usually be a Unit Manager or other manager. If your complaint is about a Unit Manager it will be dealt with by the Branch Manager or other senior manager. If your complaint is about the Branch Manager then it should be sent to the Head of Risk and Compliance, who is Simon Wood, of Thompsons Solicitors, The Synergy Building, Campo Lane, Sheffield, S1 2EL.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I HAVE COMPLAINED?

1. We will acknowledge receipt of your complaint within 2 working days of us receiving the complaint, enclosing a copy of this procedure.
2. Your complaint will be recorded in a central register for monitoring and management information purposes and a separate file will be opened.
3. We will investigate your complaint. This will normally involve passing your complaint to the relevant manager in the office which dealt with your matter. They will review the matter and speak to the member(s) of staff who acted for you.
4. You will not be charged by the firm for our investigation of your complaint.

INVESTIGATING YOUR COMPLAINT

- If appropriate, the manager will invite you to a meeting to discuss and hopefully resolve your complaint. The manager will do this within 21 days of sending you the acknowledgement letter.
- Within 5 working days of the meeting the manager will write to you to confirm what took place and any solutions they agreed with you
- If a meeting is not possible or appropriate the manager will send you a detailed written reply to your complaint, including their suggestions for resolving the matter within 21 days of sending you the acknowledgement letter.

RESOLVING YOUR COMPLAINT

If you are still not satisfied with the outcome you should contact us again. We will arrange for a more senior manager, such as a Branch Manager, regional or national manager to review the decision.

We will write to you within 21 days of receiving your request for a review, confirming our final position of your complaint and explaining our reasons.

If you are still not satisfied, you can ask the Legal Ombudsman at P.O. Box 6806, Wolverhampton, WV1 9WJ to consider your complaint. Normally you need to bring a complaint to the Legal Ombudsman within 6 months of receiving a final written response from us about your complaint or within 6 years of the date of the act or omission about which you are complaining (or 3 years of the date you should reasonably have known there were grounds for complaint if the act or omission was more than 6 years ago). Please note the Legal Ombudsman will not accept complaints about issues that took place before 6th October 2010.

For further information you should contact the Legal Ombudsman on 0300 555 0333 or refer to www.legalombudsman.org.uk

If we have to change any of the time scales above, we will let you know and explain why.