



Solicitors' Assistance Scheme

independent professional support for solicitors

To find out more

If you would like to know more about the SAS, or if you have a problem which you believe a Scheme member could help you with, then please either telephone the central help line on 0207 117 8811, email us at help@thesas.org.uk or visit our web site on www.thesas.org.uk to find details of the SAS member closest to you.

You need not give your name and your enquiry will be dealt with in total confidence.

The SAS can help you with

arbitration • bankruptcy • child law • civil partnerships • conduct • conveyancing • corporate recovery • costs • crime • disciplinary • discrimination • employment • financial • fraud • inadequate professional service • insolvency • insurance • interventions • litigation • matrimonial • mental health • money laundering • negligence • partnership • practice management • practising certificates • probate • retiring from practice • Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal • tax • voluntary arrangements • voluntary practice closure • welfare benefits • wills

tel: 0207 117 8811

email: help@thesas.org.uk

web site: www.thesas.org.uk

Administrative office: 47 Charles Road, Solihull, B91 1TT

Solicitors Assistance Scheme is the operational name of Solicitors Assistance Scheme Limited, a company limited by guarantee, whose company registration number is 6391802 and whose registered office is at 45 High Street, Wanstead, London, E11 2AA



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We can all need help

Problems can arise at any time and just because you are a solicitor, or work in a solicitors' office, does not make them easier to deal with.

Whether your problems are professional, work-related, disciplinary, financial or personal there is nothing wrong in admitting that you may need a little help - the kind of help that comes from someone who understands the problems you are experiencing and can either provide some timely advice or simply confirm the appropriateness of your actions.

The right help at the right time

Whatever the problem, it is good to be able to turn to someone whom you feel you can trust, who understands your difficulties and can provide the practical support and assistance you need at a difficult time in your life.

The **Solicitors' Assistance Scheme** is here to provide you with that kind of support and help with problems that might arise.

With members nationwide, the SAS can provide an assured and confidential service to all solicitors and trainee solicitors, and the staff and families of solicitors, in relation to the problems they encounter in their professional and business lives.

Whether it be first aid advice following an employment dispute, problems with an SRA investigation, a partnership fallout or more serious problems involving intervention or practice closure, members of the SAS are there to assist you and to ensure that those problems do not get out of hand.

Simply call the central help line number, email us or visit our web site and we will put you in touch with a solicitor who can assist you with your particular type of problem. Telephone lines are open every day during office hours and, even if we are engaged on other calls, we will always get back to you as soon as we are able.

About the SAS

Formed over 35 years ago the SAS has, over the years, helped tens of thousands of solicitors and their employees and families to cope with a wide range of problems.

The Scheme draws upon the experience and expertise of solicitors around the country, all of whom provide up to one hour's free preliminary advice. Usually this is provided by telephone although in exceptional circumstances may be delivered face to face.

Where matters need to be taken further, and if you are happy to do so, the solicitor providing the initial advice can normally be instructed on a basis to be agreed between the parties. There is no obligation, however, for you to take the matter beyond the preliminary stage.

About the SAS

Often those who call the SAS are wary of discussing openly the issues which are affecting them, for example because they relate to disciplinary, personal or criminal matters.

All SAS members are independent of the Law Society and the SRA and, whether or not a formal retainer is entered into, they will respect the confidentiality of the matter being discussed. This principle of confidentiality is even referred to in the Solicitors' Code of Conduct, so that you can discuss any problem openly without worrying about the SAS member having to "whistle blow".

Voluntary closures

Sometimes, circumstances arise where a solicitor needs to close their practice. This may be as the result of illness, retirement, or practising certificate problems or may be because the SRA is considering an intervention. This could have dire financial consequences for a solicitor if not handled properly and if issues such as run-off indemnity cover are not dealt with adequately.

The SAS can assist with these situations and can, where appropriate, negotiate with the SRA for a voluntary closure, supervised by the SAS member.

