

## Bogus solicitors

It is a criminal offence for someone to call themselves a [solicitor](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#solicitor) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#solicitor\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#solicitor) or act as a solicitor if they are not on the [roll of solicitors](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#roll) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#roll\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#roll). This could be pretending to be a solicitor, for example, at court, but may also include describing themselves as a solicitor on their social media profiles. We call these people 'bogus solicitors' and we may prosecute them. We publish [alerts about bogus solicitors](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/scam-alerts/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/scam-alerts/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/scam-alerts/) and theft or cloning of a genuine solicitor's identity.

All genuine solicitors are on the roll of solicitors, which we administer, and will be able to give you their SRA number on request.

## Solicitors Register

You can check whether a law firm is regulated by us using our [Solicitors Register](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/register/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/register/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/consumers/register/). You can search using the regulated name of a law firm—not its trading name(s). You can also search for a firm by entering its SRA ID number.

If you would like to check that a solicitor is genuine, or if you think you are dealing with a bogus solicitor, [contact us](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/home/contact-us/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/home/contact-us/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/home/contact-us/) immediately.

## Checking their details

If you think a letter, email or phone call isn't from a solicitor, please check another source such as a website and/or any previous correspondence them. You can also check contact details with us.

Please [contact us](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/home/contact-us/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/home/contact-us/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/home/contact-us/) immediately if you think you are dealing with a bogus solicitor or someone is misusing a genuine solicitor's identity.

You can also read our guidance for solicitors on [bogus law firms and identity theft](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/bogus-law-firms-identity-theft/) [\[https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/bogus-law-firms-identity-theft/\]](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/guidance/bogus-law-firms-identity-theft/).

## Lawyers

Please be aware anyone providing legal services can call themselves a lawyer but only those we regulate can say they are a solicitor. You can find out more about the different types of lawyers on the [Legal Choices website](https://www.legalchoices.org.uk/types-of-lawyers/) [\[https://www.legalchoices.org.uk/types-of-lawyers/\]](https://www.legalchoices.org.uk/types-of-lawyers/).

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Please use **[www.sra.org.uk/bogus-solicitors](http://www.sra.org.uk/bogus-solicitors)** to link to this page.