



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/).

Please use **www.sra.org.uk/bogus-solicitors** to link to this page.