

Frequently Asked Questions

Further information about our provision of legal services as a law firm that is not regulated by the SRA.

Can ClearCube Law give me legal advice?

Yes. Our solicitors are qualified, hold current practising certificates and have many years of experience.

Are you a law firm?

ClearCube Law LLP is a partnership whose partners and other solicitors give legal advice. **Our solicitors are qualified and regulated by the SRA as individuals in the same way as a solicitor in any other law firm.** However, unlike traditional law firms, the partnership is not regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority ("SRA").

What are the benefits of working with one of your solicitors?

An unregulated solicitors' practice is an excellent (and often more cost effective) option for many types of work, such as general legal advice and legal drafting on a variety of topics including commercial contracts, corporate legal advice, data protection, intellectual property and consumer regulatory matters, etc.

The legal services our solicitors provide must meet the same high standards set for all solicitors. As well as benefiting from years of study and training, your solicitor is also overseen by independent regulatory and complaints bodies:

- our solicitors are regulated by the SRA and comply with the high standards of ethical conduct required, including to advise you in your best interests (regardless of what is best for our business); and
- complaints about solicitors can be raised with an independent Legal Ombudsman free of charge (once the solicitor has had a chance to respond). More information can be found in our terms of business.

Is there any legal work an unregulated practice can't do for me?

For some legal matters, clients do still need to use a traditional law firm. These include:

- suing people, being sued or making claims (including immigration work and employment related claims made by the employee);
- dealing with someone's estate after they have died;
- buying and selling property, including business property;
- legal work which has a financial services element to it.

We do not undertake any work of this nature – and for most areas of law (including all the areas we cover) using an SRA regulated law firm has not been necessary since 2019.

What are the potential downsides of working with an unregulated law firm?

SRA regulated law firms offer some additional services and protections that we cannot offer. We believe that the benefits of working with us would outweigh any of them, however, we nonetheless bring these to your attention:

- **We do not handle client money:** Traditional law firms sometimes hold a client account, into which their clients can pay money for use in legal transactions or to cover the solicitors' fees. Client money held by traditional solicitor firms benefits from possible access to the SRA compensation fund should a solicitor ever steal money from the client account.

Our solicitors cannot hold client money for you in this way. We firmly believe that there are now much better and safer ways to transfer funds should you ever need this, and can provide contact details for organisations that can help, and liaise with them in relation to your matter if you instruct us to do so.

- **We are not required to obtain SRA 'minimum terms' professional indemnity insurance cover:** Law firms regulated by the SRA are required to have a minimum of £2 million (for traditional law firms) to £3 million (for alternative business structures) of professional indemnity insurance cover. The SRA's requirements of the policy also significantly limit the circumstances in which an insurer can escape liability for funding claims in the event of a mistake being made. While this can provide better protection for clients, it means that professional indemnity insurance for traditional law firms is extremely expensive, and can sometimes be difficult for a law firm to obtain or renew – which must be done annually. Occasionally, this has led to a law firm shutting down at short notice.

ClearCube Law holds £1 million of professional indemnity insurance cover. The cover we have obtained would not meet the SRA's requirements in every respect, but still provides significant reassurance for our clients in the unlikely event that one of our solicitors makes a mistake.

It may be even more reassuring to note that, to date, none of our solicitors has been responsible for an error that resulted in a claim being made against their firm's insurance (either while at ClearCube Law or at any other firm). Despite our collectively excellent track record, we are not complacent about this:

- We employ robust processes to avoid mistakes occurring.
 - We have a transparent working environment so that, on the rare occasions that something does go wrong, we can identify and resolve it quickly.
 - We make consistent efforts to ensure that team members at all levels are well supported.
- **Our clients are not able to apply for a grant from the Solicitors Compensation Fund:** individuals, as well as businesses, charities and trusts with an annual turnover, income or assets of less than £2 million, may have the right to apply for a grant where they believe a solicitor at an SRA regulated law firm owes them money, or is responsible for a loss that the individual or entity has suffered. Our clients do not have this right, even if they would be eligible.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to ask.