

**OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE  
48<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER WING, RAF LAKENHEATH, UK  
Building 1082, DSN 226-3553**



**SOLICITORS (UK)**

Attorneys in the UK can be either solicitors or barristers. Both are lawyers where the Barrister specializes in matters which are elevated to the Higher Courts though some solicitors now also have this authority. If you require legal representation in the UK whether civil or criminal, you would first instruct a solicitor who will advise and represent you in the relevant court: County Court deals with civil matters and Magistrates' Court deals with criminal matters. If your case is serious enough to be elevated to a higher court such as the High Court (civil) or Crown Court (criminal), the solicitor will hire a barrister to bring the case before the Judge. The solicitor will then present you with the bill for fees to include the costs of the barrister. All law firms in the United Kingdom offer a range of legal expertise though Criminal Law and Immigration Law are not commonly offered by all.

We suggest that you ask the law firm about their costs when initially enquiring about an appointment. There is no fixed rate in the United Kingdom for a preliminary consultation. Charges/fees can be £180 or more (including VAT) per hour for an appointment. However, some law firms offer free initial consultations if they are kept at or under thirty minutes in duration and there is no obligation by you to retain that law firm. Depending on the issue and the law firm, United Kingdom Legal Aid (financial help in paying solicitor/barrister costs) may be offered to you by the solicitor. They may ask basic questions about your finances over the phone or at Reception, when you are booking the appointment. If you appear to qualify for whole or partial payment by the Legal Aid Board, the solicitor will be ready at your initial appointment with the necessary application forms. Therefore make sure that you are ready with details of your income, savings and outgoings and also those of your spouse (note: if a divorce/child custody issue then spousal income is excluded).

If you have any questions or concerns before speaking to a solicitor, you can contact the British Liaison Officer, Ms. Karen L. MacKay on DSN (314) 226 5214 / commercial (01638) 525214/ email [karen.mackay.gb@us.af.mil](mailto:karen.mackay.gb@us.af.mil) or the Front Desk on DSN (314) 226 3553/Commercial (01638) 523553.

A list of solicitors in the local area has been attached for your perusal. **Please note that this list has been prepared solely for your convenience and does not constitute as an endorsement or recommendation of any one of these firms by the Legal Office or by the United States Air Force.**

If you would like details of other law firms, you may also look in the Yellow Pages under “solicitors” (not “attorneys”) or access the Law Society website:

<https://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/>

### **LAW FIRMS IN THE LOCAL AREA**

*The list is arranged alphabetically and not according to preference.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Solicitors <i>(also Criminal Law)</i> De Vere House 90 Saint Faiths Lane Norwich Norfolk NR1 1NE Tel: (01603) 610611 Web: <a href="https://actsolicitors.co.uk">https://actsolicitors.co.uk</a> (Offices also in Thetford)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashton Legal The Long Barn, Fornham Business Court Fornham St Martin, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP331PZ Tel: (01284) 762331 Fax: (01284) 764214 Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries.bury@ashtonlegal.co.uk">enquiries.bury@ashtonlegal.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.ashtonslegal.co.uk">www.ashtonslegal.co.uk</a> (Offices also in Thetford, Norwich, Ipswich and Cambridge)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barricella Hughes Marchant Solicitors <i>(also Criminal Law)</i> 20 Butter Market Ipswich Suffolk IP1 1BP Tel: (01473) 226225 Fax: (01473) 215828 Email: <a href="mailto:info@bhmsolicitors.co.uk">info@bhmsolicitors.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.bhmsolicitors.co.uk">www.bhmsolicitors.co.uk</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ellisons Solicitors <i>(also Immigration Law)</i> 83/84 Guildhall Street Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1LN Tel: (01284) 763333 Fax:(01284) 762207 Email: Immigration Lawyer Mr. Sidhu: <a href="mailto:Sohan.Sidhu@ellisonsolicitors.com">Sohan.Sidhu@ellisonsolicitors.com</a> (Offices also in Colchester, Ipswich, Tendring &amp; London)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fraser Dawbarns 29 London Road Downham Market Norfolk PE38 9AS Tel: (01366) 383171 Fax: (01366) 385034 Email: <a href="mailto:info@fraserdawbarns.com">info@fraserdawbarns.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.fraserdawbarns.com">www.fraserdawbarns.com</a> (Offices also in Kings Lynn, Wisbech, Ely and March)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greene &amp; Greene <i>(also Notary services &amp; Landlord Tenant Law)</i> 80 Guildhall Street Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1QB Tel: (01284) 762211 Fax:(01284) 717499 Email: <a href="mailto:mail@greene-greene.com">mail@greene-greene.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.greene-greene.com">www.greene-greene.com</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie McDonald Family Law Cleveland House 39 Old Station Rd Newmarket CB8 8QE Tel: (01638)661600 Fax: (01638) 661600 Email: <a href="mailto:Julie@imfamilylaw.co.uk">Julie@imfamilylaw.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.jmfamilylaw.co.uk">www.jmfamilylaw.co.uk</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oslers <i>(also Criminal Law)</i> 99 Ipswich Street Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 1BB Tel: (01449) 774670 Fax: (01449) 774640 Email: <a href="mailto:mail@oslers.co.uk">mail@oslers.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.oslers.co.uk">www.oslers.co.uk</a> (Office also in Cambridge)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spire Solicitors 40 High Street Watton Thetford Norfolk IP25 6AE Tel: (01953) 882864 Fax:(01953) 883035 Email: <a href="mailto:info@spiresolicitors.co.uk">info@spiresolicitors.co.uk</a> (Offices also at Norwich, Aylsham, Attleborough, Diss, Dereham &amp; Wymondham)</li> </ul>	<p>PLEASE NOTE/ have you tried the...</p> <p>CITIZENS’ ADVICE (CA)? They have offices all over the UK. The trained volunteers deal with a range of legal topics and may be able to assist you with your issue to satisfactory conclusion without requiring assistance of a solicitor. Contact: <a href="http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk">www.citizensadvice.org.uk</a> for the local offices, opening times and contact details.</p>