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LawWorks Individual Casework – Free help from a solicitor

About LawWorks

LawWorks is the operating name of the Solicitors Pro Bono Group (SPBG). We aim to increase the delivery of free legal advice to individuals and communities in need.

What is Individual Casework and why should my client use it?

Individual Casework is a brokering service. We try to match individuals in need of legal representation with a volunteer solicitor who will provide advice free of charge.

Does my client qualify for assistance?

We help those who cannot afford to pay for a solicitor privately and who are also unable to receive help via Legal Aid or on a Conditional Fee Agreement basis.

We cover a broad range of civil and commercial disputes but not family or neighbourhood matters. Individual Casework has proved particularly helpful for applicants with **housing**, **consumer**, **employment**, and **debt** problems. We can find solicitors to advise on issues before or after litigation commences, but we cannot find lawyers to initiate proceedings.

If you are unsure as to whether you should refer a client to LawWorks Individual Casework please call Tim Atwood (tim.atwood@lawworks.org.uk) on 020 7090 7355.

How does my client apply for LawWorks Individual Casework?

Your client must complete an application form which can be downloaded from our website at www.lawworks.org.uk. Once received, the application will be reviewed by a senior solicitor. If accepted, LawWorks will attempt to place the case with a lawyer. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that we can place every case.

How likely is it that a case will be placed with a solicitor?

This depends on a number of factors. Cases tend to be easier to place if the applicant lives in the south east due to the number of volunteer lawyers we have in this area. More complicated cases are harder to place. We cannot place cases expected to involve a hearing of more than three days.

Examples of help we given in the past

Housing: we helped a dining room assistant at a primary school threatened with eviction when she separated from her partner. With help from a barrister from the Bar Pro Bono Unit our applicant secured 70% of the equity in her house.

Finance: we settled a long-running franchise dispute with the help of a volunteer solicitor who spent over 100 chargeable hours on the case.

Employment: we negotiated an out of court settlement in an unfair dismissal case with the help of an employment solicitor at a leading city firm.