



# Solicitors Act 1974

## 1974 CHAPTER 47

### PART II

#### PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE, CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE OF SOLICITORS AND CLERKS

##### *Practice rules*

### 31 Rules as to professional practice, conduct and discipline.

- (1) Without prejudice to any other provision of this Part the [<sup>F1</sup>Society may] make rules , with the concurrence of the Master of the Rolls, for regulating in respect of any matter the professional practice, conduct and discipline of solicitors [<sup>F2</sup>and for empowering the Society to take such action as may be appropriate to enable the Society to ascertain whether or not the provisions of rules made, or of any code or guidance issued, by the [<sup>F3</sup>Society] are being complied with.]
- (2) If any solicitor fails to comply with rules made under this section, any person may make a complaint in respect of that failure to the Tribunal.
- [<sup>F4</sup>(3) Where, under Schedule 4 to the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (approval of certain rules in connection with the grant of rights of audience or rights to conduct litigation), the [<sup>F5</sup>[<sup>F6</sup> Secretary of State] approves any rule such as is mentioned in subsection (1), the requirement of the concurrence of the Master of the Rolls imposed by that subsection shall not apply.]]
- [<sup>F4</sup>(4) Subsection (3) shall have effect whether or not the rule required to be approved under Schedule 4 to the Act of 1990.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 31(1) substituted (7.3.2008) by [Legal Services Act 2007 \(c. 29\), ss. 177, 211, Sch. 16 para. 31\(2\)\(a\)](#) (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, [art. 2\(j\)\(i\)](#)
- F2** Words in s. 31(1) inserted (27.9.1999) by [1999 c. 22, s. 48, Sch. 7 para. 1](#) (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2)); S.I. 1999/2657, [art. 2\(a\)](#)

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/03/2008.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Cross Heading: Practice rules. (See end of Document for details)*

- F3** Word in s. 31(1) substituted (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 31(2)(d)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)**
- F4** S. 31(3)(4) added (1.4.1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 37), s. 125(2), **Sch. 17 para. 10**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F5** Words in s. 31(3) substituted (1.1.2000) by 1999 c. 22, s. 43, **Sch. 6 para. 3** (with Sch. 14 para. 7(2)); S.I. 1999/3344, **art. 2(a)** (with art. 4, Sch. 2)
- F6** Words in s. 31 substituted (19.8.2003) by The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/1887), art. 9, **Sch. 2 para. 3**

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 31 extended (14.10.1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), **s. 89(3)(a)(i)(4)**; S.I. 1991/1883, art.3, **Sch.**  
 S. 31 extended (22.5.2000) by S.I. 2000/1119, regs. 1, 37(3), **Sch. 4 para. 1(3)**

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 07/03/2008.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Solicitors Act 1974, Cross Heading:  
Practice rules.