



Solicitors Act 1974

1974 CHAPTER 47

PART I

RIGHT TO PRACTISE AS SOLICITOR

Qualifications and training

1 Qualifications for practising as solicitor.

No person shall be qualified to act as a solicitor unless—

- (a) he has been admitted as a solicitor, and
- (b) his name is on the roll, and
- (c) he has in force a certificate issued by the Society in accordance with the provisions of this Part authorising him to practise as a solicitor (in this Act referred to as a “practising certificate”).

[^{F1}1A Practising certificates: employed solicitors.

A person who has been admitted as a solicitor and whose name is on the roll shall, if he would not otherwise be taken to be acting as a solicitor, be taken for the purposes of this Act to be so acting if he is employed in connection with the provision of any legal services—

- (a) by any person who is qualified to act as a solicitor;
- (b) by any partnership at least one member of which is so qualified; ^{F2} . . .
- (c) by a body recognised ^{F3} . . . under section 9 of the Administration of Justice Act 1985 (incorporated practices).] ^{F4} or
- (d) by any other person who, for the purposes of the Legal Services Act 2007, is an authorised person in relation to an activity which is a reserved legal activity (within the meaning of that Act).]

Status: Point in time view as at 07/02/2023.

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

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1A inserted by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), **s. 85**
- F2** Word in s. 1A(b) repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 2(a), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(i)(ii)(aa)** (with art. 9)
- F3** Word in s. 1A(c) repealed (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 2(b), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)**
- F4** S. 1A(d) and preceding word inserted (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 2(c)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)** (with art. 9)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 1A(d) modified (temp.) (prosp.) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 209, 211, **Sch. 22 para. 12** (with ss. 29, 192, 193)

^{F6}^{F5} 1B] Restriction on practice as sole solicitor

Textual Amendments

- F5** S. 1B inserted (1.7.2009) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 3** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/1365, **art. 2(a)(i)**
- F6** S. 1B omitted (1.11.2015) by virtue of The Legal Services Act 2007 (The Law Society) (Modification of Functions) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/401), art. 1(3), **Sch. 1 para. 2**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 1B extended (with modifications) (1.7.2009) by S.I. 2000/1119, Sch. 4 para. 7(1)Table (as substituted by The Legal Services Act 2007 (Registered European Lawyers) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/1587), **art. 3(7)(a)**)

2 Training regulations.

(1) The Society ^{F7} . . . may make regulations (in this Act referred to as “training regulations”) about education and training for persons seeking to be admitted or to practise as solicitors.

^{F8}(2)

(3) Training regulations—

(a) may prescribe—

- (i) the education and training ^{F9} . . . to be undergone by persons seeking admission as solicitors;
- (ii) any education or training to be undergone by persons who have been admitted as solicitors;
- (iii) the examinations or other tests to be undergone by persons seeking admission as solicitors or who have been admitted;
- (iv) the qualifications and reciprocal duties and responsibilities of persons undertaking to give education or training for the purposes of the regulations or undergoing such education or training; and

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- (v) the circumstances in which ^{F10} . . . education or training under the regulations may be [^{F11}started or] terminated;
 - (b) may require persons who have been admitted as solicitors to hold practising certificates while they are undergoing education or training under the regulations;
 - (c) may include provision for the charging of fees by the Society and the application of fees which the Society receives;
 - (d) may make different provision for different classes of persons and different circumstances.
- (4) ^{F12}
- (5) ^{F13}

Textual Amendments

- F7** Words in s. 2(1) repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(a), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)(i)**
- F8** S. 2(2) repealed (1.4.1991) by Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41, SIF 76:1), s. 125(7), **Sch. 20**; S.I. 1991/608, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F9** Words in s. 2(3)(a)(i) repealed (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(b)(i), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)(n)(i)**
- F10** Words in s. 2(3)(a)(v) repealed (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(b)(ii), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)(n)(i)**
- F11** Words in s. 2(3)(a)(v) inserted (7.3.2008) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 211, **Sch. 16 para. 4(b)(iii)** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2008/222, **art. 2(j)(i)**
- F12** S. 2(4) repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(c), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)(i)**
- F13** S. 2(5) repealed (1.1.2010) by Legal Services Act 2007 (c. 29), ss. 177, 210, 211, Sch. 16 para. 4(c), **Sch. 23** (with ss. 29, 192, 193); S.I. 2009/3250, **art. 2(f)(ii)(i)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 2 extended (22.5.2000) by S.I. 2000/1119, regs. 1, 37(3), **Sch. 4 para. 1(1)**

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Changes to legislation:

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