

Suspected dishonesty

We do not tolerate dishonesty within the profession we regulate. Those we regulate are in a position of trust. Personal [integrity](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#integrity) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#integrity\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#integrity) is central to their role and they are bound by our [Principles](https://rules.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/principles) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/principles\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/solicitors/standards-regulations/principles) to protect [client](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#client) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#client\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#client) money and [assets](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#assets) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#assets\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#assets), and to act in the [public interest](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#public-interest) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#public-interest\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#public-interest). [Solicitors](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#solicitor) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#solicitor\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#solicitor) and other individuals that we regulate are often trusted with large amounts of client money. Therefore it is essential that those we regulate act honestly and in their clients' best [interests](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#interests) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#interests\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#interests).

If you think a person or firm, regulated by us, has been dishonest towards you or a [third party](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#3rd-party) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#3rd-party\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#3rd-party), contact us immediately via our [contact centre](https://rules.sra.org.uk/contact-us) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/contact-us\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/contact-us) or use our [report a solicitor page](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/report-solicitor/) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/report-solicitor/\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/report-solicitor/).

Dishonesty can take many different forms—from misleading a client about a document, to [complex frauds](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/fraud-dishonesty/fraud/) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/fraud-dishonesty/fraud/\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/fraud-dishonesty/fraud/). We treat any form of dishonesty seriously, because they pose a serious [risk](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#risk) [\[https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#risk\]](https://rules.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#risk) to clients and the public interest, as well as jeopardising the reputation of the profession.

A finding of dishonesty against a person regulated by us has serious consequences for him or her. Therefore, we must be absolutely sure that he or she has been dishonest.