
D3 – SRA Regulatory Complaint – Claimant’s Solicitor

Ongoing Assessment into the conduct of the Claimant’s Solicitor

Irene Sara Spalletti
92 Ollerton Road N11 2LA, London
irene.spalletti@gmail.com
07412 604 767

To: Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)
By email: report@sra.org.uk

10 February 2025

Formal Complaint Against Ms Sarah May Yi Walker of Hughes Fowler Carruthers

Dear SRA Complaints Team,

I am writing to formally file a complaint against Ms. Sarah May Yi Walker, Senior Associate at Hughes Fowler Carruthers, who represents my ex-partner, Mr. Walker, in an ongoing family and property dispute. Ms. Walker's actions have caused significant emotional, financial, and psychological harm, undermined legal proceedings, and exacerbated the abuse I have suffered.

I respectfully request that the content of this complaint remains confidential and is not disclosed to Ms. Walker or her firm. While I understand the SRA will investigate independently, I fear disclosure may lead to retaliation.

I request an investigation into whether Ms. Walker's conduct breaches regulatory and ethical standards, including but not limited to:

- Harassment laws
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Family Procedure Rules
- Equality obligations
- Data protection regulations
- The Human Rights Act 1998

'BACKGROUND

- Property Dispute & Legal Proceedings: My ex-partner and I jointly own a property purchased in February 2024, which has lost £60,000 in value and incurred an additional £60,000 in renovation costs. Essential building works are required before it can be sold.
- Criminal Proceedings & Legal Orders: On 1 September 2024, my ex-partner was arrested and remains on six-month bail with conditions preventing him from returning to the property or contacting me. His case is now with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for controlling and coercive behaviour and domestic abuse charges. I have been granted a Non-Molestation Order with power of arrest, allowing me to remain in the property until 25 October 2025.
- Financial Hardship: Due to my ex-partner's financial control and coercion, I have been left in severe financial distress. He stole over £10,000 from me, and I now survive on £400 per month in Universal Credit.

Credit, relying on family and friends to cover my £1,600 monthly mortgage and heating costs. Meanwhile, Mr. Walker earns £109,560 annually and has over £150,000 in savings and assets. Despite extensive efforts, I remain unrepresented due to financial constraints.

CONCERNS REGARDING MS. WALKER'S CONDUCT

(1) **Persistent Pressure & Harassment Despite My Unrepresented Status**

Despite knowing I lack legal representation, Ms. Walker has persistently pressured me to agree to unreasonable terms and has aggressively escalated communication. She repeatedly contacted me on:

- November: 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25
- December: 13
- January: 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 30, 31
- February: 3, 4

This excessive and aggressive contact, knowing my financial and legal position, has caused severe distress and demonstrates a clear imbalance of power.

(2) **Misrepresentation & Dismissal Of Domestic Abuse**

Ms. Walker has minimised the abuse I suffered, despite overwhelming evidence:

- My first statement to the court (supporting my Non-Molestation Order) was nearly 400 pages long, with exhibits and audio files documenting the abuse.
- The police and council are actively involved, leaving no doubt about her client's responsibility for domestic abuse, coercion, and control.
- Ms. Walker has falsely claimed her client is "on bail for breaking a lamp", when in fact he:
 - a. Was arrested on 1 September 2024 and remains on six-month bail.
 - b. Faces criminal charges for coercive control and domestic abuse.
 - c. Is subject to a Non-Molestation Order with power of arrest.

By trivialising the abuse, Ms. Walker undermines the severity of domestic violence and reinforces harmful narratives that discourage victims from seeking justice.

(3) **Unreasonable Financial Demands & Coercion**

Despite knowing my financial hardship, Ms. Walker issued a Letter Before Action on 13 December 2024, threatening a TOLATA application unless I:

- Paid £213,020 by 31 January 2025, despite no legal basis and my inability to buy out her client.
- Accepted a property overvaluation of £103,000 (£903,000 vs actual £800,000).
- Paid an additional £15,000 in compensation to her client, my abuser.

She then aggressively followed up on multiple dates in January and February, exacerbating pressure and financial distress and despite having put myself into a further £3,000 debts, I had instructed a solicitor over the

Christmas holidays,, but Ms Walker ignored her communication and proceeded regardless with the TOLATA application on the 22nd January and I am now getting threatened of being responsible for all its associated costs.

(4) Potential Misrepresentation Of Legal Fees

I request that the SRA investigates whether my ex-partner is genuinely paying the legal fees he is using to threaten me, or if these funds are being returned to him through alternative means.

- Ms. Walker's firm claimed £7,000 in legal costs, but the judge only approved £1,600, raising concerns about the accuracy of these invoices.
- Given my ex-partner's history of financial control, it is highly unlikely he would personally finance such extortionate legal harassment unless he had a way to recover those funds.
- His uncle is a well-established retired family law solicitor, likely connected to Hughes Fowler Carruthers. This raises concerns that he may be receiving undisclosed financial or professional assistance.

I request that the SRA investigates the legitimacy of these legal costs and whether they have been misrepresented or manipulated.

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION & ACTION

Given the serious nature of these concerns, I respectfully request that the SRA:

- Investigates Ms. Walker's professional conduct and whether her actions breach regulatory and ethical standards.
- Reviews whether her legal threats and financial demands constitute misconduct, harassment, or economic abuse.
- Examines the potential misrepresentation of legal fees and whether my ex-partner is receiving undisclosed financial assistance.
- Takes appropriate disciplinary action to prevent solicitors from misusing legal processes to further coercive control, financial abuse, and the re-traumatisation of abuse survivors.

Supporting Evidence: I have attached my first statement alongside a calendar showing all the dates I have been contacted by Ms Walker with all her communication.

Advocate confirmed my eligibility for their service confirming my financial situation. In this [link](#) you will find most of my case files shared with the organisation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Sara Spalletti



Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

RE: To Irene Spalletti (2)SRA Reference RGC/000151100

2 messages

Dean Spencer <Dean.Spencer@sra.org.uk>
To: Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

9 April 2025 at 15:14

Sensitivity: General

Dear Irene Spalletti,

I am currently waiting for correspondence from the firm.

Once I receive it, together with whatever evidence you want me to consider, I will be able to decide if all 3 limbs of our Assessment Threshold Test are met to enable the case to move to the next stage of our process. [SRA | Making decisions to investigate concerns | Solicitors Regulation Authority](#)

If all 3 limbs are not met, the matter will be closed.

I should also point out that not only must there be compelling evidence, but the misconduct complained of must be sufficiently serious that it requires a regulatory outcome in the wider public interest.

I look forward to hearing from you with the documents you want me to read as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Spencer

Dean Spencer

Investigation Officer and Anti Money Laundering Associate
Solicitors Regulation Authority/Awdurdod Rheoleiddio Cyfreithwyr
Dean.spencer@sra.org.uk

0121 758 7007

My usual working hours are 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday. However, my working times can vary.

If you receive emails from me at weekends, or outside “normal” business hours, there is no expectation that you should respond other than at your convenience.

From: Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>
Sent: 09 April 2025 12:51
To: Dean Spencer <Dean.Spencer@sra.org.uk>
Subject: Re: To Irene Spalletti SRA Reference RGC/000151100

****This message originated from outside the SRA- Please treat attachments or links with caution****

Dear Mr. Spencer,



Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

To Irene Spalletti SRA Reference RGC/000151100

5 messages

Dean Spencer <Dean.Spencer@sra.org.uk>
To: Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

14 April 2025 at 10:37

Sensitivity: General

Dear Irene Spalletti,

I am keen to address your concerns promptly

I therefore welcome receipt of your evidence as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Spencer

Dean Spencer

Investigation Officer and Anti Money Laundering Associate
Solicitors Regulation Authority/Awdurdod Rheoleiddio Cyfreithwyr
Dean.spencer@sra.org.uk

0121 758 7007

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For information on how we handle your personal data, see our [privacy notice](#).

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Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>
To: Dean Spencer <Dean.Spencer@sra.org.uk>

15 April 2025 at 11:16

Good morning Mr. Spencer.

That's fantastic news. I'm making my defense against their TOLATA application. I'll take a break today and put everything together for you and transfer it through the link you've provided.



Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

RE: To Irene Spalletti (3) SRA Reference RGC/000151100

2 messages

Dean Spencer <Dean.Spencer@sra.org.uk>
To: Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

17 April 2025 at 15:01

Sensitivity: General

Dear Irene Spalletti,

Thank you for your email.

I will be working this Saturday, so if there is any prospect of having them by Saturday all well and good.
However, if this cannot be achieved, I can wait until after Easter.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dean spencer

Dean Spencer

Investigation Officer and Anti Money Laundering Associate
Solicitors Regulation Authority/Awdurdod Rheoleiddio Cyfreithwyr
Dean.spencer@sra.org.uk

0121 758 7007

My usual working hours are 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday. However, my working times can vary.

If you receive emails from me at weekends, or outside “normal” business hours, there is no expectation that you should respond other than at your convenience.

From: Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>
Sent: 17 April 2025 14:00
To: Dean Spencer <Dean.Spencer@sra.org.uk>
Subject: Re: To Irene Spalletti SRA Reference RGC/000151100

****This message originated from outside the SRA- Please treat attachments or links with caution****

Dear Mr Spencer,

I'm almost finished putting everything together for you. My apologies for the delay — I have ADHD, and managing around 300 pages of evidence has been a bit overwhelming. I've been working hard to organise everything clearly and logically, and I'm nearly there.



Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

To Irene Spalletti. Re HFC Solicitors ("the Firm") SRA Reference RGC/000151100

6 messages

Dean Spencer <Dean.Spencer@sra.org.uk>
To: Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

22 April 2025 at 08:00

Sensitivity: General

Dear Irene,

Unfortunately, the document transfer did not work. I was unable to access any of the documents you copied to the main download.

As I started work at 4am I was obviously not going to call you early on a Saturday morning on a Bank Holiday weekend.

However, I thought it might be helpful to summarise what the firm say about the case. I have set this out in summary.

Background

The firm's involvement on behalf of Mr Walker was from 10.10.24 to 14.3.25.

On 2 September 2024, the Police were called, and Mr Walker was bailed with conditions. They say he has not returned to the property or communicated with you (save through Solicitors)

On 10.10.24 the firm was instructed to correspond with you about the sale of Ollerton Road ("the property").

On 22 October 2024 you made ex parte applications to the Court. A limited non-molestation order was made.

Undertakings were offered by Mr Walker, but these were refused. Mr Walker suggested a consent order to conclude the matter and reduce costs.

On 13 December 2024, the firm was instructed to send a pre-action letter to you about the property. This sought consent to sell. An indication was given that a TOLATA application would be made. These proceedings are ongoing.

You made two further applications within the Family Law Act proceedings to vary the non-molestation order and for various other costs. The hearing took place on 5 February 2025 at which you made another application for legal costs.

At the hearing DDJ Barrett dismissed all three applications and ordered you to pay the costs incurred of £1,625.00. The court order recited that the court determined that it was not reasonable for the application to contest the issues raised.

Excessive correspondence

The firm do not consider that the volume of correspondence was excessive given the various applications that you had issued.

Mr Walker was prevented from communicating with you, so therefore all legal communication had to come via the firm. They say that communication had to come via a friend, later the Police and two different firms of Solicitors who were subsequently dis-instructed.

They say that there was correspondence with you about joint expenses. Mr Walker's preferred communication on this topic was with you direct. However, because of the court orders, it was logical that the communications should come via the firm.

However, communication about the case was vital.

"Dismissal" of abuse

The firm say that Mr Walker denied subjecting you to domestic abuse. Those were the firm's instructions.

Unreasonable financial demands and coercion

In cases of this type, it is normal practice for Solicitors to put forward proposals. Such proposals are either agreed or not. Inevitably, any proposals are put forward based on instructions from their client. Some proposals may not appear to be affordable by the receiving party, however, that does not mean to say that the party to whom the proposal is made cannot raise finance from third parties, family, or friends. As I have said, they are merely proposals for settlement. There is nothing coercive about them because the party can either agree to the proposal, reject it, or make a counter proposal. It is simply a starting point.

Legal Costs

Mr Walker incurred legal costs of more than £7000. However, at the hearing the judge made an order that you pay £1,125 for counsel plus £500. As far as the firm is concerned, and in so far as it is relevant, it is Mr Walker who funded his representation in the case and no one else.

I understand that at the hearing on 5 February 2025 at the hearing before DDJ Barrett complaints were made about Ms Walker. A note of the judge's comment reads "*It is not Ms Walker's fault-she is a Solicitor and doing her job. Officers of the court like Ms Walker need to be involved*".

DC Proudfoot

The firm say that in an email dated 3 February 2025 you said, "*Both I and the detective overseeing the bail conditions have instructed [Ms Walker] to stop [contacting your Solicitor], yet she persists in ignoring those instructions*"

On the same day DC Proudfoot provided an email to the court. He wrote, "*I did not specifically instruct this communication to stop and have not instructed Ms Walker at all, nor had communication with her so far. Following this I informed [Mrs Spalletti] via email why Police believe that contact from Ms Walker did not amount to a breach of bail with references to the circumstances as we understand them.*

Next Steps

As I said, these are the firm's general comments.

I now need to access the documents you kindly prepared.

I will contact our IT department for their help.

I did try the other link you provided but such is the level of security we have on our systems this could not be accessed.

I will get back to you as soon as I have spoken to our IT team.

Kind regards,

Dean Spencer

Dean Spencer

Investigation Officer and Anti Money Laundering Associate

Solicitors Regulation Authority/Awdurdod Rheoleiddio Cyfreithwyr

Dean.spencer@sra.org.uk

0121 758 7007

To: Dean Spencer
Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)
By email: dean.spencer@sra.org.uk

18 April 2025

Impact statement to outline the emotional, financial, and psychological consequences of Ms Sarah Walker's actions

Dear Mr Spencer,

I believe I have now included everything you may need. I am extremely exhausted, so there may be some errors, for which I apologise in advance. I've done my absolute best to organise the large volume of documents, evidence, and correspondence for your review. If you require any further clarification, additional information, or explanation regarding any part of the file, I will do everything I can to provide it.

I've spent every single day since the proceedings began working on my defence against Ms Walker and her client. I don't wish to overstep, but I feel compelled to communicate just how profoundly Ms Walker's actions—and what I believe to be her abuse of power—have impacted my wellbeing and health. The consequences have been so serious that, at times, I have felt pushed to such extreme despair that I considered ending my life just to make it all stop.

My former partner was arrested on 2nd September 2024 and is still under investigation for various charges including but not limited to controlling and coercive behaviour, domestic abuse, financial control, harassment. Following this, the judge granted me sole occupation of the property for 12 months, up to 25th October 2025, to give me time to recover from the trauma, resume my studies, and rebuild my life with the goal of becoming financially and socially stable again.

Instead, since that arrest, my life has become increasingly unbearable—largely due to Ms Walker's relentless legal pressure and disregard for my situation. I receive £393 per month in Universal Credit, while my outgoings related to the property are nearly £1,800 per month. I could never afford legal representation and have had no choice but to face Ms Walker's actions alone, day after day.

Mr Spencer, this has taken everything out of me. My mental health has severely deteriorated from the constant battle—having to teach myself legal processes, gather and present evidence, and repeatedly defend myself against accusations I knew to be baseless. The emotional toll is unimaginable.

Ms Walker's conduct has, in my view, amounted to a continuation of the same type of coercive control I escaped. For someone who has just found the courage to speak out and begin healing from domestic abuse, the experience of being dragged into this kind of relentless legal pressure should never be allowed to happen. It is retraumatising, unjust, and, I believe, an abuse of her position as an officer of the court.

I do not know whether Ms Walker's withdrawal from the case is connected to any action taken by the SRA. If it is, I struggle to find the words to thank you. I genuinely don't know how much more I could have endured. It is my sincerest hope that she will be held fully accountable for her actions and prevented from ever treating another person—especially a vulnerable survivor of domestic abuse—in this way again. The damage she has caused is not just legal or financial. It's personal. Deep. And long-lasting.

I was granted 12 months to rebuild my life, but that time has been stolen from me by this ongoing legal battle. Instead of healing, I have been forced to relive trauma, defend myself without legal support or resources, and live in a constant state of fear and isolation. I truly don't know if I will ever fully recover from the impact this has had on my mental health, my life, and my future.

My ex-partner took everything—my money, my friends, my peace of mind. I have no family here, no job, and I now depend on family support abroad to pay the mortgage. I am in debt because I was forced to instruct a solicitor, only for Ms Walker to ignore every attempt at communication and proceed directly to court in violation of pre-action protocols. Her strategy left me buried under legal stress. I had no means, no strength, and no guidance to face.

Please don't hesitate to reach out. I'd be more than happy to assist with any gaps or questions you might have and once again, thank you for giving this the serious attention it deserves.

Kind regards,



Irene Spalletti

Your ref: RGC/000151100

Irene Sara Spalletti
92 Ollerton Road N11 2LA, London
irene.spalletti@gmail.com
07412 604 767

To: Dean Spencer
Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)
By email: dean.spencer@sra.org.uk

18 April 2025

Formal Complaint Against Ms Sarah May Yi Walker of Hughes Fowler Carruthers

Dear SRA Complaints Team,

I am writing to formally file a complaint against Ms. Sarah May Yi Walker, Senior Associate at Hughes Fowler Carruthers, who is acting on behalf of my ex-partner, Mr. Walker, in an ongoing family and property dispute. Ms. Walker's actions have caused me significant emotional, financial, and psychological harm, undermined the legal process, and perpetuated the abuse I have suffered.

I respectfully request that the content of this complaint remains confidential and is not disclosed to Ms. Walker or her firm. While I understand that my complaint will be investigated in accordance with SRA procedures, I am concerned that sharing its full details may result in further distress or retaliation. I trust that the SRA will handle this matter with due sensitivity.

I believe her conduct has breached SRA Principles and may violate legal standards, including:

- Harassment laws
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Family Procedure Rules
- Equality obligations
- Data protection breach
- The Human Rights Act 1998

Background

- My ex-partner and I jointly own a property purchased in February 2024. Since then, the property has lost £60,000 in value, and we have incurred an additional £60,000 in losses due to renovations and other property-related costs. The property requires essential building works to regain its value before it can be put back on the market.
- On 1 September 2024, my ex-partner was arrested and remains on six-month bail, with conditions preventing him from returning to the property or contacting me directly.
- The case is now with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), where my ex-partner faces multiple charges, including controlling and coercive behaviour and domestic abuse.
- I have been granted a Non-Molestation Order for my protection.
- Due to financial hardship, I am currently unrepresented in these proceedings.

Financial disparities

- I am in severe financial distress due to my ex-partner's abuse and coercion. He stole all my savings—over £10,000—leaving me with less than £10 to my name. This is fully detailed in my 320-page statement, supported by extensive evidence.
- I rely on £400 per month in Universal Credit and financial support from family and friends to cover my £1,600 monthly mortgage and heating costs.
- In contrast, Mr Walker earns £109,560 annually and has over £150,000 in savings and assets.

Summary of complaint

Mrs. Walker's actions as Mr. Walker's solicitor have been excessive, aggressive, and harassing. Despite being aware of my vulnerable position as a domestic abuse survivor leaving me with traumas affecting my mental health, she has exploited the power imbalance between Mr. Walker and me.

Coercion & Harassment Despite My Unrepresented Status

Since my ex-partner's arrest in September 2024, I have relentlessly sought affordable legal representation through legal charities and organisations, with over 188 pages of search efforts, including:

- Phone calls and in-person appointments
- Assistance requests including to RCJ Advice, Support Through Court, FLOWS, the Royal Courts of Justice, Legal Choices, We Are Advocate and The University of Law.

Despite these extensive efforts, I have remained legally unrepresented, a fact Ms Walker has been fully aware of. Despite knowing this, she has:

- Persistently pressured me to agree to unreasonable terms
- Escalated communication aggressively, placing immense pressure on me.

Relentless Harassment Through Excessive Communication

Ms Walker repeatedly contacted me on the following dates:

- November: 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25
- December: 13
- January: 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 30, 31
- February: 3, 4

This aggressive and excessive communication has exacerbated my distress and placed immense pressure on me, fully knowing that:

- I lack legal representation.
- I am a survivor of documented domestic abuse and coercion.
- I have no financial means to respond through a solicitor.

I believe this behaviour violates the SRA's ethical obligations and demonstrates a deliberate abuse of legal power to intimidate an unrepresented and financially vulnerable party.

Ms Walker's Disregard for Evidence of Domestic Abuse & Coercion

Ignoring Overwhelming Evidence of Abuse

My first statement to the court, in support of a non-molestation and occupation orders application was nearly 400 pages long, including:

- Extensive exhibits.
- Audio files documenting the abuse.

This evidence, along with the involvement of the police and the council, leaves no doubt as to her client's responsibility for domestic abuse, control, and coercion. Despite being fully aware of this overwhelming evidence, Ms Walker has:

- Dismissed and minimised the abuse I suffered.
- Used her position to protect and enable an abuser.

Her conduct contradicts SRA Principles and legal ethical standards, particularly in cases involving documented domestic abuse survivors.

False Claims About Bail Conditions

Ms Walker has falsely claimed that her client is "on bail for breaking a lamp", when in reality:

- He was arrested on 1 September 2024 and remains on six-month bail.
- The case is currently with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).
- He faces charges of controlling and coercive behaviour and domestic abuse.
- I have been granted a Non-Molestation Order with power of arrest for my protection, allowing me to remain in the property without her client's interference until 25 October 2025.

By trivialising the abuse I have suffered, Ms Walker is:

- Undermining the severity of domestic violence.
- Perpetuating harmful narratives that enable abusers.
- Acting in a discriminatory and insensitive manner towards victims of domestic abuse.

Her conduct sends a damaging and appalling message—that unless a victim of domestic abuse has £20,000 to fight solicitors in court, they are better off remaining in an abusive relationship.

This is not only legally and ethically unacceptable but also a terrifying and dangerous precedent that the SRA must investigate and address immediately.

Specific Incidents of Misconduct

Persistent Harassment & Coercion

- On 5 November, immediately after receiving the non-molestation order and hearing date, Ms. Walker imposed arbitrary deadlines for me to sign undertakings.
- She persistently harassed me with repeated communications on multiple dates (8, 11, 12, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25 November).
- She threatened that failure to comply would result in a £10,000 legal bill, despite court guidance that these issues should be addressed at the hearing.

Unreasonable Financial Demands & Legal Threats

Ms. Walker's communications were made in response to my first statement, which means she was obligated to read and consider its contents before issuing further harassing communications. In my first statement (nearly 400 pages, including exhibits and audio files of abuse), I made it absolutely clear that:

- I cannot afford to buy her client out.
- I am struggling to meet basic financial needs.
- I have no access to legal aid or legal support.

Despite this, she proceeded to issue a Letter Before Action on 13 December, threatening a TOLATA application unless I complied by 13 January with one of the following completely unreasonable demands:

- Pay £213,020 by 31 January 2025, despite my well-documented financial hardship and with no legal basis.
- Accept a property overvaluation of £103,000 (£903,000 vs actual £800,000).
- Pay an additional £15,000 in compensation to her client—my abuser.

OR:

- Put the house on the market immediately by 20 January 2025, despite the court order allowing me to be the sole occupier of the property until the 25 October 2025
- Divide furniture/chattels equally, despite extensive evidence that my ex did not contribute to household or furniture costs and actually used it as financial control to manipulate and abuse me.

Ms. Walker then aggressively followed up on multiple dates: 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 30, 31 January, 3, 4 February, further escalating the pressure.

Coercion Through Financial Abuse

- I am not eligible for legal aid, cannot afford a solicitor, and since my ex-partner's arrest resulting in him never reimbursing me, I have been forced to apply for Universal Credit and survive on £400 per month.

- Despite my clear inability to meet these demands, Ms. Walker coercively forced me into further debt—I had to borrow £3,000 to seek legal representation following her Letter Before Action on 13 December, and calculated this would have been proven extremely difficult due to the Christmas holidays.
- Despite my solicitor confirming on 10 January that they were in the process of being instructed, Ms. Walker continued escalating pressure rather than following standard professional conduct.
- Deliberately consumed my legal budget—She continued to chase my solicitor unnecessarily, ensuring that all my available legal funds were drained before I could even respond to their demands.

Intentional Financial Deprivation & Coercive Control

Despite the fact that I followed their dictated process, Ms. Walker and her client ignored it and proceeded with the TOLATA application anyway. I am now being threatened with liability for all application-related costs, exceeding £25,000.

This Is Financial & Coercive Control—A Premeditated Manipulation

The sole reason I am in this financially crippling situation is because of Ms. Walker's abusive legal tactics and her client's relentless abuse and financial control he is continuously having over me. They deliberately stripped me of all available funds.

- Deliberately deprived me of the ability to access legal representation through economic abuse.
- They are now exploiting this financial vulnerability to take me to court, knowing I have no means to fight back.
- I believe these actions amount to serious misconduct, economic abuse, and coercion, warranting urgent investigation by the SRA. This is not just a legal dispute—it is premeditated manipulation.

Data Protection Breach (ICO Complaint Pending)

Ms. Walker and her firm breached data protection regulations by sending highly sensitive information (including my ex-partner's statement) on 3 February to Mr. Pennisi, despite clear instructions on 15 January that neither he nor I wished to be contacted. Given that police bail conditions were also amended to prohibit this, I have now reported this to the ICO.

Human Rights Violations & Psychological Impact

- My GP has raised concerns about the impact of this harassment on my mental health.
- I have been left feeling suicidal multiple times due to this relentless pressure.
- I have prepared my will and provided all evidence to the detective in charge of my ex's prosecution in case their legal threats push me to act on these thoughts.

This constitutes inhuman or degrading treatment under Article 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998. Additionally, by financially depleting me to the point where I cannot participate in the legal process, I believe she has also violated Article 6 (Right to a Fair Trial).

Potential Misrepresentation of Legal Costs

I also request that the SRA investigates whether my ex-partner is genuinely paying the legal fees he is threatening me with, or whether these funds are being returned to him through alternative means.

During a recent court hearing, Ms Walker and her firm claimed £7,000 in legal costs, but the judge only approved £1,600, raising serious concerns about the accuracy and legitimacy of the invoices provided. Given my ex-partner's history of financial control and coercion, I believe it is necessary to verify whether these legal costs are being falsely inflated or manipulated.

Knowing his character and history of financial coercion, I find it highly unlikely that he would personally finance the extortionate costs of such persistent and aggressive legal harassment. Given his pattern of economic abuse, I strongly suspect that he would not willingly spend his own money on these legal proceedings unless there was a way for him to recover those funds through undisclosed means.

Additionally, his uncle is a well-established retired family law solicitor, who is likely to have connections to Hughes Fowler Carruthers or its network. This raises further concerns about the true source of funding for these legal fees and whether my ex-partner is receiving financial or professional support through informal or undisclosed arrangements.

If my ex-partner is not actually paying these fees or is being reimbursed by Ms Walker's firm, his uncle, or any third party, then these legal threats would amount to further financial abuse and intimidation. I request that the SRA thoroughly investigates this matter to ensure full compliance with ethical billing practices and financial transparency.

Request for Investigation & Action

Given the serious misconduct, coercion, and possible criminal behaviour, I formally request that the SRA investigates Ms. Walker and her firm for:

- Breach of professional ethics.
- Abuse of legal processes.
- Potential misrepresentation of legal costs
- Human rights violations under the Human Rights Act 1998.

I formally request an urgent investigation into Ms Walker's misconduct, as her actions have caused significant harm and raise serious ethical and legal concerns. I also urge the SRA to take immediate disciplinary action to prevent solicitors from misusing legal processes to further coercive control, financial abuse, and the re-traumatisation of abuse survivors.

Yours sincerely,



Irene Spallitti



Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

Documents

1 message

Dean Spencer <Dean.Spencer@sra.org.uk>
To: Irene Spalletti <irene.spalletti@gmail.com>

22 April 2025 at 10:18

I'm using Mimecast to share large files with you. Please see the attached instructions.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: dean.spencer@sra.org.uk
To: irene.spalletti@gmail.com
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Tue, 22 Apr 2025 10:18:55 +0100
Subject: You're invited to share large files

You've been invited to share large files

Send files to Dean Spencer up to a total of 2 GB, before Tue, 06 May 2025 23:59 +0100.

Upload Files

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< > SRA Reference RGC/000151100

SRA Reference RGC/000151100

- RGC/000151100/Ms Sarah Walker/HFC
 - RGC/000151100/Impact statement regarding the conduct of Ms Sarah Walker.pdf
 - RGC/000151100/Ms Sarah Walker/HFC.pdf

< > RGC/000151100/Ms Sarah Walker/HFC

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker)
 - 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application
 - 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker
 - 04. Legal Search
 - 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing
 - 06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action
 - 07. 2025-01-02/NMO & Occupation Order Application to Vary
 - 08. 2024-12-19/Southgate Solicitors
 - 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996
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 - 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health
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> 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application

02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application

- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker)
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application
 - 02. 2024-10-20/NMO & Occupation Order Application/NCDV/LIP Information Pack.pdf
 - 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application/Court/Application for non-molestation and occupation order (FL401).pdf
 - 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application/Court/First Statement of the Applicant with Exhibits.pdf
 - 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application/Court/First Statement of the Applicant.pdf
 - 02. 2024-10-25/NMO & Occupation Order Application/Court/Non-molestation order.pdf
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker
- 04. Legal Search
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing
- 06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action
- 07. 2025-01-02/NMO & Occupation Order Application to Vary
- 08. 2024-12-19/Southgate Solicitors
- 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996
- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health
- 11. ICO
- 12. WP Letters
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions)

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker)
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker**
- 04. Legal Search
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing
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- 08. 2024-12-19/Southgate Solicitors
- 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996
- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health
- 11. ICO
- 12. WP Letters
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions)
- 2025-02-10/SRA - formal letter of complaint .pdf

Sarah Walker/Property Matter

03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker/Family Law.pdf

2024-11-05/Sarah Walker/Property Matter

03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker/Property Matter.pdf

04. Legal Search

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker)
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker
- 04. Legal Search**
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing
- 06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action
- 07. 2025-01-02/NMO & Occupation Order Application to Vary
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- 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996
- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health
- 11. ICO
- 12. WP Letters
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions)
- 2025-02-10/SRA - formal letter of complaint .pdf

04. Legal Search

04. Legal Search.pdf

05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker)
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker
- 04. Legal Search
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing**
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- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health
- 11. ICO
- 12. WP Letters
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions)
- 2025-02-10/SRA - formal letter of complaint .pdf

05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing

- Respondent's Bundle
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing/Court/EX105_Help with Costs.pdf
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing/Court/EX107_Request for Transcripts.pdf
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing/Court/Non-molestation Order.pdf
- 05. 2024-11-27/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing/Council/Not Homeless Letter.pdf

06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker)
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker
- 04. Legal Search
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing
- 06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action**
- 07. 2025-01-02/NMO & Occupation Order Application to Vary
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- 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996
- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health
- 11. ICO
- 12. WP Letters
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions)
- 2025-02-10/SRA - formal letter of complaint .pdf

06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action

06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action.pdf

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker) >
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application >
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker >
- 04. Legal Search >
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing >
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- 07. 2025-01-02/NMO & Occupation Order Application to Vary** >
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- 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996 >
- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health >
- 11. ICO >
- 12. WP Letters >
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions) >
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< > 08. 2024-12-19/Southgate Solicitors

08. 2024-12-19/Southgate Solicitors

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker) >
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application >
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker >
- 04. Legal Search >
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing >
- 06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action >
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- 08. 2024-12-19/Southgate Solicitors** >
- 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996 >
- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health >
- 11. ICO >
- 12. WP Letters >
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions) >
- 2025-02-10/SRA - formal letter of complaint .pdf

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker) >
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application >
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker >
- 04. Legal Search >
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing >
- 06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action >
- 07. 2025-01-02/NMO & Occupation Order Application to Vary** >
- 08. 2024-12-19/Southgate Solicitors** >
- 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996** >
- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health >
- 11. ICO >
- 12. WP Letters >
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions) >
- 2025-02-10/SRA - formal letter of complaint .pdf

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker) >
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application >
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker >
- 04. Legal Search >
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing >
- 06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action >
- 07. 2025-01-02/NMO & Occupation Order Application to Vary** >
- 08. 2024-12-19/Southgate Solicitors** >
- 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996** >
- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health** >
- 11. ICO >
- 12. WP Letters >
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions) >
- 2025-02-10/SRA - formal letter of complaint .pdf

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker) >
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application >
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker >
- 04. Legal Search >
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing >
- 06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action >
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- 09. 2025-01-23/CPR Part 8 under Section 14 TOLATA 1996 >
- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health >
- 11. ICO >
- 12. WP Letters >
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions) >

2025-02-10/SRA - formal letter of complaint .pdf

12. WP Letters

Sarah Walker.pdf

- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker) >
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application >
- 03. 2024-11/Sarah Walker >
- 04. Legal Search >
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing >
- 06. 2024-12-13/Letter before Action >
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- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health >
- 11. ICO >
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2025-02-10/SRA - formal letter of complaint .pdf

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13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions)

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- 01. 2024-09-01/Respondent's Arrest (represented by Ms S.Walker) >
- 02. 2024-10-22/NMO & Occupation Order Application >
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- 04. Legal Search >
- 05. 2024-11-26/NMO & Occupation Order Court Hearing >
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- 10. 2025-01-09/Mental Health >
- 11. ICO >
- 12. WP Letters >
- 13. Sarah Walker - ALL (old versions) >

RGC/000151100/Ms Walker/CIVIL MATTER.pdf
RGC/000151100/Ms Walker/FAMILY LAW.pdf

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SRA Standard and Regulations					
Principle 1	When may a breach occur?		¶	Exhs.	Links
The Rule of Law That the law is of equal application, and this is put into effect by individuals and organisations, including "emanations of the State", and through activities engaging the justice system.	1.1	Failing to act with integrity. This includes making false or misleading statements to the court or engaging in conduct that undermines the integrity of the legal process.		xx	File
	1.2	Failing to disclose relevant evidence. A solicitor helping a client provide a false explanation of where evidence came from or failing to disclose relevant evidence or authorities.		xx	File
	1.3	Making false or misleading statements Making false statements or providing misleading information in court or to clients.	●	xx	File
	1.4	Making applications to the court that serve no useful purpose Making applications solely to delay proceedings or increase costs.	●		File
	1.5	Offensive communications Sending offensive or derogatory communications to clients or opposing solicitors.	●		
	1.6	Inaccurate or misleading publicity Making misleading or inaccurate statements about the firm's services or the prospects of success in a claim.			
Proper Administration of Justice Should the Principles come into conflict, those which safeguard the wider public interest (such as the rule of law, and public confidence in a trustworthy solicitors' profession and a safe and effective market for regulated legal services) take precedence over an individual client's interests.	1.7	Interference with and abuse of the judicial process. At its most serious, failure to uphold the proper administration of justice may occur if a solicitor seeks to interfere with or intimidate a witness with the intention of causing them to change, or refuse to give, evidence in court proceedings. Similarly, a solicitor who knowingly gives untrue evidence or seeks to facilitate the interference with a jury would undermine the proper administration of justice. A solicitor who seeks to manipulate or abuse the court system would also be failing in their duty to uphold the proper administration of justice.	●	xx	File
	1.8	Misleading the court "...misleading the court is regarded by the court and must be regarded by any disciplinary tribunal as one of the most serious offences that an advocate or litigator can commit. It is not simply a breach of a rule of a game, but a fundamental affront to a rule designed to safeguard the fairness and justice of proceedings. Such conduct will normally attract an exemplary and deterrent sentence. That is in part because our system for the administration of justice relies so heavily upon the integrity of the profession and the full discharge of the profession's duties and in part because the privilege of conducting litigation or appearing in court is granted on terms that the rules are observed not merely in their letter but in their spirit. Indeed, the reputation of the system of the administration of justice in England and Wales and the standing of the profession depends particularly upon the discharge of the duties owed to the court."	●	xx	File
	1.9	Solicitors also have a duty to uphold the constitutional principle of the rule of law and the proper administration of justice.			
	1.10	Not to waste the court's time.			
Failure to comply with the lawful exercise of investigative powers A solicitor may fail to uphold the proper administration of justice if they fail to comply with powers lawfully exercised by the court or another enforcement authority.	1.11	Failing to comply with a lawfully issued summons to give evidence to a court.		xx	File
	1.12	Failing to provide a specimen of breath where it is lawfully required.		xx	File
	1.13	Failing to produce documents when lawfully sought, under a statutory power, by a regulatory or other authority.		xx	File

SRA Standard and Regulations	
Principle 2	When may a breach occur?
To act in a way that upholds public trust and confidence The courts have stated that any solicitor who acts with anything less than complete integrity, probity and trustworthiness, must expect severe sanctions. Public trust and confidence in the solicitors and firms we authorise is at the heart of the legal system. Clients often place their confidence in solicitors during times when they are at their most vulnerable; assuming they will protect their interests, money and assets and personal, often sensitive, information.	<p>2.1 Compromising the integrity of the legal system Where we see conduct in a legal professional or firm which would question the trustworthiness and integrity of the profession, or delivery of regulated legal services.</p> <p>2.2 Upholding the Rule of Law Solicitors must act in a way that upholds the rule of law and the proper administration of justice. This means respecting legal principles, procedures, and the court system <i>Neither they must assist in conduct intended to deceive or exploit the legal system for financial gain.</i></p> <p>2.3 Honesty and Integrity Solicitors must act honestly and with integrity. This includes avoiding any misleading or dishonest actions or practices.</p>
Other misconduct We will act where other conduct, either inside or outside of practice, would diminish the public's trust if they knew it was done by a solicitor or by someone in an SRA-regulated firm.	<p>2.4 Discriminatory Conduct This will include discriminatory conduct or behaviour involving violence or sexual harassment.</p> <p>2.5 Behaviour involving violence or harassment This will include discriminatory conduct or behaviour involving violence or sexual harassment.</p>
Offensive Communications	Aggravating Factors
Offensive communications A solicitor may fail to uphold the proper sending offensive and derogatory e-mails to the opponent's solicitor during litigation. We treat seriously communications that are offensive, derogatory or inappropriate whether in nature, tone or content. <i>It is not necessary for there to be evidence that individuals, or classes of individuals, have viewed or been affected by the communication.</i> Where a communication is made through a regulated person's email, we will start from a presumption that they are the author. Strong evidence will be needed to refute that.	<p>2.6 The communication was <u>discriminatory</u></p> <p>2.7 The communication used <u>abusive or threatening language or images, or was likely and/or intended to shock, harass or victimise others.</u></p> <p>2.8 The communication <u>caused significant harm, distress or offence to clients, third parties or the public or targeted a vulnerable or unrepresented person.</u></p> <p>2.9 There is a pattern of frequent or a <u>large number of concerning communications.</u></p> <p>2.10 The communication demonstrates a <u>lack of independence or objectivity in carrying out role, or undermines the rule of law or legal systems.</u></p> <p>2.11 The person failed to heed a challenge or warning about the nature, tone or content of communication and has failed to correct or remove the communication.</p> <p>2.12 The communication <u>discloses confidential information, or relates to client matters.</u></p>
Impact of misconduct We are likely to find a failure to uphold public trust and confidence in cases where the misconduct has impacted a significant number of clients and/or particularly vulnerable opponents.	<p>2.13 Solicitors might take unfair advantage of a opponent's mental or emotional state, leading them to make decisions that are not in their best interests. This could involve pressuring them to sign documents or making decisions they would not have made if they had been fully informed.</p>

SRA Standard and Regulations

Principle 2	When may a breach occur?
<p><u>Communications with other opposing and litigants in person</u></p> <p>It is not uncommon for emails with the other side in relation to a client's matter to be robust, particularly in litigation. However, you should ensure such communications do not cross the line by using inflammatory language or being gratuitously offensive, either to the other side or about their client.</p> <p>Your role is to act in the client's best interests; antagonising the other side is unlikely to achieve this. We expect you to remain objective and not allow the matter to become personal, regardless of the provocation or your client's instructions. You are not your client's 'hired gun' and you may be at risk under Principle 3 if you allow your independence to be compromised by being drawn into using offensive language or making offensive comments in order to meet your client's expectations.</p> <p>It is equally important to remain professional when dealing with an individual who is representing themselves.</p> <p><u>If an issue arises, failure to have proper regard to this warning notice is likely to lead to disciplinary action.</u></p>	<p>Warning Notice</p> <p>Sending an offensive, threatening or harassing communication may also amount to a criminal offence (eg under section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988, section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 or the Protection from Harassment Act 1997). Depending on the circumstances, committing any of these offences or failing to comply with the Equality Act 2010, could leave you at risk under Principles 2, 5 and 6.</p> <p>In the context of letters, emails, texts or social media, this means ensuring that the communications you send to others or post online do not contain statements which are derogatory, harassing, hurtful, puerile, plainly inappropriate or perceived to be threatening, causing the recipient alarm and distress.</p> <p>We treat any communications which are offensive seriously, whether on the grounds of any of the 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010 or otherwise.</p> <p>We will impose serious sanctions where the communication involves aggravating features:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. they demonstrate dishonesty, discrimination, harassment or abuse, are targeted at or take advantage of vulnerable individuals, or2. they demonstrate a lack of integrity or independence or undermine the rule of law.

SRA Standard and Regulations					
Principle 3	When may a breach occur?		¶	Exhs.	Links
Acting with Independence Solicitors must act with independence, both as individuals and as firms. This means being free from undue influence from clients, employers, or other parties. A solicitor should not allow their interests or the interests of others to influence their judgment or actions in a way that negatively impacts their client's best interests or undermines public trust. 'A solicitor is independent of his client and having regard to his wider responsibilities and the need to maintain the profession's reputation, [they] must and should on occasion be prepared to say to [their] client 'What you seek to do may be legal but I am not prepared to help you to do it'" (In the matter of Paul Francis Simms, SDT, 2002).	3.1	<u>Independent Advice</u> Solicitors must act with professional independence and avoid being influenced by personal relationships or financial interests, offer advice that is independent, impartial, and free from any internal, external, or personal interests. This includes ensuring that advice is not influenced by the solicitor's own biases or the interests of others.			File
	3.2	<u>Helping other people to act improperly</u> A solicitor helping a client provide a false explanation of where evidence came from or failing to disclose relevant evidence or authorities Nor must assist in conduct intended to deceive or exploit the legal system for financial gain.			File
	3.3	<u>Avoiding Conflicts of Interest</u> Solicitors must avoid conflicts of interest, both actual and potential, and ensure that they act in the best interests of their clients. This includes managing any potential conflicts that may arise when acting for multiple clients or when there are competing interests.			
	3.4	<u>Maintaining Competence</u> Solicitors must maintain their competence to carry out their role and keep their professional knowledge and skills up to date. This includes keeping abreast of changes in the law and legal practice.			

SRA Standard and Regulations		
Principle 4	When may a breach occur?	Test
<p>Acting with Honesty</p> <p>We will still take action where the conduct is sufficiently serious and morally culpable as to call into question whether they meet the high personal standards expected from a member of the solicitors' profession.</p>	<p>4.1 Misleading a court, tribunal, a regulator Lawyers must be truthful in all dealings, including with clients, the court, and other parties.</p>	<p><u>What was the individual's genuine knowledge or belief as to the facts at the time?</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>To ascertain what the individual genuinely knew or believed at the time. Evidence suggesting a motive, for example that the conduct led to financial gain or concealed an error, may carry significant weight</i></p> <p><u>Was their conduct dishonest?</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>In view of their knowledge or belief at the time, was their conduct dishonest by the standards of ordinary decent people? While a person's state of mind is relevant, they cannot escape a finding of dishonesty based on a warped personal belief they were honest</i></p>
	<p>4.2 Helping other people to act improperly A solicitor helping a client provide a false explanation of where evidence came from or failing to disclose relevant evidence or authorities.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<p>4.3 Honesty and Integrity Solicitors must act honestly and with integrity. This includes avoiding any misleading or dishonest actions or practices.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<p>4.4 Making false or misleading statements Making false statements or providing misleading information in court, to clients or others..</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SRA Standard and Regulations				
Principle 5	When may a breach occur?	¶	Exhs.	Links
Acting with Integrity This goes beyond honesty and encompasses fairness, impartiality, and a commitment to acting in a way that upholds the integrity of the legal profession. The courts have stated that any solicitor who acts with anything less than complete integrity, probity and trustworthiness, must expect severe sanctions. There have also been cases where letters of claim included a threat to reveal publicly embarrassing information if the opponent fails to settle or an unjustified threat of liability for significant costs. Such an approach could amount to a failure to act with integrity. We will take action where the conduct is sufficiently serious and morally culpable as to call into question whether they meet the high personal standards expected from a member of the solicitors' profession.	<p>5.1 Wilful or reckless disregard of standards, rules, legal requirements or ethics Where there has been a wilful or reckless disregard of standards, rules, legal requirements or ethics, including an indifference to what the applicable provisions are or to the impacts or consequences of a breach.</p> <p>5.2 Taking unfair advantage of third parties Where the regulated firm or individual has taken unfair advantage of clients or third parties or has helped or allowed others to do so.</p> <p>5.3 Wilfully or recklessly causing harm or distress to another Where the regulated firm or individual has knowingly or recklessly caused prejudice, harm or distress to another.</p> <p>5.4 Honesty and Integrity Solicitors must act honestly and with integrity. This includes avoiding any misleading or dishonest actions or practices.</p> <p>5.5 Making false representations on behalf of the client Making false or misleading statements to the court. Knowing that a client is providing false or misleading information but not taking steps to prevent it.</p> <p>5.6 Unjustified threat of liability for significant costs</p> <p>5.7 Engaging in bullying, harassment and unfair discrimination Typically involves an abuse of trust (stemming from a position of seniority or authority), a lack of respect, or simply taking unfair advantage of others.</p>			
Principle 6 Acting in a way that encourages equality, diversity, and inclusion We expect you to carry out your role in a way that encourages equality of opportunity and respect for diversity. We expect you to be inclusive in your approach to everything you do. You must comply with the law. Solicitors and firms must comply with the Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation to ensure they are not discriminating or engaging in unlawful practices. Principle 6 specifically addresses the need to foster an environment where everyone is treated fairly and with respect, regardless of their age, disability , gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation and treating clients and others fairly and with respect.	<p>6.1 Duty for disabled people under the Equality Act 2010. It is important to provide information, guidance and support on disability, mental health and wellbeing to ensure they are not discriminating or engaging in unlawful practices and to provide reasonable adjustments for disabled people.</p> <p>6.2 Duty to treat people fairly and with dignity and respect You are responsible for upholding the reputation of the profession in your professional and personal life and for treating people fairly and with dignity and respect, to be fair and inclusive in your interactions with people you meet and deal with through the course of your work. You are responsible for making sure your personal views are not imposed on and do not have a negative impact on others. This includes expressing extreme personal, moral opinions.</p> <p>6.3 Discrimination, harassment and victimisation You are required to have a complaints procedure in place and to make sure complaints - including those of discrimination, harassment and victimisation - are dealt with promptly, fairly, openly and effectively.</p> <p>6.4 Duties towards who may face disadvantage due to their socio-economic background Your approach to EDI should include everyone, including those who may face disadvantage because of their socio-economic background or their caring responsibilities.</p> <p>6.5 Provide support to those with disabilities or mental health xxx It is important to provide information, guidance and support on disability, mental health and wellbeing.</p>	xx xx ● xx ● ●	File File ● File ● ●	

SRA Standard and Regulations	
Principle 7	When may a breach occur?
<p>You must act in the best interests of each client</p> <p>Solicitors must act in a manner that furthers the client's interests and avoids putting them at risk of conflict. This includes considering the client's specific needs, circumstances, and goals. Solicitors cannot act if there is a conflict of interest or a significant risk of conflict.</p> <p>This one isn't my battle to fight for so I will not provide evidence on the matter, despite that I believe she has also breached Principle 7.</p>	<p>7.1</p> <p>Acting in a way that is not in the client's best interest</p> <p>Failing to advise a client of all available options or potential consequences</p>
	<p>7.2</p> <p>Taking actions that put the client's interests at risk</p> <p>Entering into arrangements that could lead to conflicts of interest without proper disclosure to clients.</p>

SRA Standard and Regulations					
Conduct in Disputes	When may a breach occur?			¶	Exhs.
Conduct in disputes Misuse of the legal system, and the bringing or threatening of proceedings, in order to discourage public criticism or action. .	D.1.1	Abusive litigation tactics Making excessive or meritless claims, aggressive and intimidating threats		xx	
	D.1.2	Otherwise acting in a way which fails to meet the wider public interest principles.		xx	
	D.1.3	Making allegations without merit This involves solicitors bringing claims with insufficient investigation of their merits or of the underlying legal background. Solicitors bringing claims may be reckless as to the merits of the case - or actively uninterested in the merits - and aim to pressure on an opponent to settle the case outside of court. There have also been cases where letters of claim included a threat to reveal publicly embarrassing information if the opponent fails to settle or an unjustified threat of liability for significant costs. Such an approach could amount to a failure to act with integrity.		xx	
	D.1.4	Threatening to issue proceedings, or to defend a claim in such cases, can also result in solicitors failing to act in the best interests of their clients. Or where their clients are encouraged to proceed with litigation where there is little legal merit in doing so. This might arise because of a conflict with the solicitor's own interest in generating fee income. Or where a solicitor wants to pursue the litigation notwithstanding the lack of merit in order to keep a longstanding client 'happy', and fails to act with sufficient independence.			
	D.1.5	Improper tactics such as these can also be seen in some group actions. In some cases, actions have been instigated in circumstances where the law firm carefully selects the lead case. However little has been done to check the validity of other claims made by individuals approached by the firm or by introducers. This is not in the interests of clients and can lead to a perceived risk of higher costs and damages, creating undue and inappropriate pressure on defendants to settle out of court.			
Pursuing litigation for improper purposes This involves the threat of litigation or the making of counterclaims and defence arguments for reasons that are not connected to resolving genuine disputes or advancing legal rights.	D.1.6	The rule of law and our legal system provides that there is a right to legal advice and representation for all. However, proceedings must be pursued properly and that means making sure that duties to a client do not override wider public interest obligations and duties to the court.		xx	
	D.1.7	When exercising your reporting duties, your decision to report - or threatening to - must not be improperly used for tactical reasons to attempt to influence another party's behaviour or the progress of the litigation. If you do this, you run the risk that you will be in breach of your obligations and subject to investigation by us.		xx	
Taking unfair advantage Paragraph 1.2 of our Code of Conduct for Solicitors says that 'you must not abuse your position by taking unfair advantage of clients or others'. In advancing a client's interests, solicitors must be careful not to take unfair advantage of an opponent or other third parties such as witnesses. Special care is needed when dealing with or corresponding with an opponent who is unrepresented or vulnerable. Solicitors must make sure that such opponents are not taken advantage of, for example, by being given artificially short or wholly unnecessary deadlines to reply to correspondence. Further, duties to the court and proper administration of justice may require solicitors to take steps to assist the court and litigant in person which may not have been required with a represented opponent.	D.1.8	Threatening litigation where there is no proper legal basis for a claim.	●	xx	File
	D.1.9	Making exaggerated claims of adverse consequences including alleging liability for costs that are not legally recoverable.	●	xx	File
	D.1.10	Sending excessively legalistic letters with the aim of intimidating particularly unrepresented or lay parties.			
	D.1.11	Sending letters in abusive, intimidating or aggressive tone or language.			

SRA Standard and Regulations					
Conduct in Disputes		When may a breach occur?		Exhs.	Links
Misleading the court Paragraph 1.4 of the Code of Conduct for Solicitors sets out the requirement not to mislead the court, the client or others. Solicitors who are complicit with their client in misleading the court, or who do so themselves, risk serious consequences. The courts have made it very clear that they regard this as 'one of the most serious offences that an advocate or litigator can commit'.	D.1.12	Knowingly helping a criminal client to create a false alibi.	●	xx	File
	D.1.13	Attempting to convince expert witnesses to alter their reports for the benefit of a solicitor's client.	●	xx	File
	D.1.14	Knowing that a client has obtained information for use in their case by illegal means (such as by phone hacking or improper surveillance methods) but helping the client to provide a false explanation of where the evidence came from.	●	xx	File
	D.1.15	Failing to disclose relevant evidence or authorities.	●		File
	D.1.16	Making false or misleading statements.	●		
	D.1.17	Making applications to the court (for example, solely to delay proceedings and increase costs) which serve no useful purpose in upholding the rule of law or the proper administration of justice.	●		
	D.1.18	Solicitors are responsible for the strategy of their client's case, they cannot abrogate their responsibility to the court and to regulatory principles and codes, on the basis that they are acting on their client's instructions alone.	●	xx	File
Conducting excessive or aggressive litigation This kind of conduct, whether in litigation or pre-action advice, can create disproportionate costs, cause distress and anxiety for the subjected parties and damage public trust and confidence in the profession. The conduct of cases that occupy court time to the detriment of others. Such cases can involve disproportionate valuations of the claim, unduly wide-ranging allegations of impropriety and inappropriate volumes of correspondence	D.1.19	Solicitors are not routinely obliged to challenge their own client's case, they do have a duty to interrogate and engage properly with the legal and evidential merits. They must not advance arguments that they do not consider to be properly arguable and they must have regard to the rule of law and the proper administration of justice.	●	xx	File
	D.1.20	Taking on or defending weak cases without making the potential costs, risks and merits clear to the client, may mean solicitors fail to act in their client's best interests. They may also be breaching other regulatory principles.			

SRA Standard and Regulations						
Vulnerable People	Obligations			¶	Exhs.	Links
Vulnerable People You can encounter vulnerable people in any area of law but you are more likely to encounter them if you practise in some areas, such as sexual offences. Adapting your advocacy to the needs of vulnerable people is important because it helps them to participate effectively in proceedings. When you engage with vulnerable people as part of your advocacy practice you need to:	V.1	Identify if your client or witness is vulnerable as early as possible		xx	File	
	V.2	Meet your regulatory and legal obligations in relation to vulnerable people.		xx	File	
	V.3	Adapt your own services to the needs of your vulnerable client or witness.		xx	File	
	V.4	Help the court identify and implement appropriate measures and adjustments for your vulnerable client or witness.			File	
	V.5	Tailor the planning and delivery of your questioning to the needs of vulnerable people, who may be on the other side				
What is Vulnerability You can encounter vulnerable people in Someone is vulnerable if they are at a higher risk of harm because they face barriers to participating effectively in court proceedings. People can be vulnerable because of:	V.6	Permanent or long-term vulnerabilities including deafness, learning difficulties and age-related conditions. Not speaking English as a first language and having low literacy levels can also be long-term vulnerabilities.		xx	File	
	V.7	Fluctuating vulnerabilities, including physical and mental health conditions which affect people in different ways at different times. Someone's living conditions may also fluctuate and make them vulnerable.		xx	File	
	V.8	Short-term vulnerabilities, including sudden changes in circumstances such as a bereavement, divorce or arrest which require the use of your services.		xx	File	
	V.9	Experiences such as domestic abuse or neglect.			File	
It is important to remember that						
	V.10	Individuals may not realise or accept they are vulnerable or be comfortable with the term.		xx	File	
	V.11	People may be reluctant to disclose a vulnerability.		xx	File	
	V.12	People can be at their most vulnerable when they need advocacy services.		xx	File	
	V.13	Vulnerability is not limited to the definition of 'vulnerable adult' from The Care Act 2014 (an adult who is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect and because of their care needs is unable to protect themselves).			File	
Identifying Vulnerability						
You should identify if your client or witness is vulnerable as soon as possible so that you have enough time to identify and meet their needs	V.14	A personal characteristic, such as a health condition		xx	File	
	V.15	A situation such as a bereavement		xx	File	
You may not have enough information about your client or witness, or enough experience of dealing with vulnerable people, to identify vulnerability on your own. Where this is the case, you should consider if you can access additional information from individuals or agencies that are connected to your client or witness. For example	V.16	Carer or support worker, social worker in a family law case, healthcare professional, police in a criminal case, charity which represents the interests of people with particular conditions		xx	File	
If you are considering sharing information with third parties about your client or witness remember your obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018, including the need for consent	V.17	Seeking advice from an expert witness such as a psychologist or psychiatrist if there is uncertainty about the existence, type or impact of a person's vulnerability		xx	File	
	V.18	Seeking an assessment of communication needs by an intermediary if there are communication issues which would diminish the quality of someone's evidence or ability to participate in proceedings		xx	File	

SRA Standard and Regulations					
Vulnerable People	What if your vulnerable client lacks capacity?			¶	Exhs.
Vulnerable People If you suspect that your client lacks capacity to give instructions or litigate, then it is critical that an assessment of capacity is completed. If you are communicating with a client who lacks capacity through a litigation friend, you should not incorrectly exclude your client from the case. Or assume they have no role or say in the process.	V.19	The Law Society's guidance on working with clients who may lack mental capacity is in line with the requirements of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.		xx	File
	V.20	Its other guidance on meeting the needs of vulnerable clients also includes information about the role of agents, litigation friends and court appointed deputies.		xx	File

SRA Assessment of Character and Suitability Rules					
Type of Behaviour	Rule	Conduct and Behaviour and Assessment	¶	Exhs.	Links
<u>Integrity and independence</u> The SRA has evidence reflecting on the honesty and integrity of a person you are related to, affiliated with, or act together with where the SRA has reason to believe that the person may have an influence over the way in which you will exercise your authorised role.	4	You have behaved in a way which is <u>dishonest</u> ;			File
		You have behaved in a way which is <u>violent</u> ;			
		You have behaved in a way which is <u>threatening or harassing</u> ;			
		You have behaved in a <u>way where there is evidence of discrimination twds others</u> ;			
		You have <u>misused your position to obtain pecuniary advantage</u> .			
		You have <u>misused your position of trust in relation to vulnerable people</u> .			
<u>Assessment Offences</u>	4	You have committed and/or have been adjudged by an education establishment to have committed a deliberate assessment offence, which amounts to plagiarism or cheating, in order to gain an advantage for you or others.	●		File
<u>Financial conduct/events</u>	4	Dishonesty in relation to the management of your finances.	●		File
<u>Aggravating factors</u> This kind of conduct, whether in litigation or pre-action advice, can create disproportionate costs, cause distress and anxiety for the subjected parties and damage public trust and confidence in the profession. The conduct of cases that occupy court time to the detriment of others. Such cases can involve disproportionate valuations of the claim, unduly wide-ranging allegations of impropriety and inappropriate volumes of correspondence.	5	No evidence of successful rehabilitation.			File
		No evidence of steps taken to remedy conduct.			
		No (or little) evidence of remorse.			
		Repeated behaviour, or a pattern of behaviour.			
		You were in a position of trust.	●		
		You held a senior position.			
		Vulnerability of those impacted by the behaviour.			
		Behaviour likely to harm public confidence in the profession.			

SRA Standard and Regulations				
Code of Conduct		When may a breach occur?	Exhs.	Links
1	Maintaining and acting fairly.	C.1.1	You do not unfairly discriminate by allowing your personal views to affect your professional relationships and the way in which you provide your services.	File
		C.1.2	You do not abuse your position by taking unfair advantage of clients or others.	File
		C.1.3	You perform all undertakings given by you, and do so within an agreed timescale or if no timescale has been agreed then within a reasonable amount of time.	File
		C.1.4	You do not mislead or attempt to mislead your clients, the court or others, either by your own acts or omissions or allowing or being complicit in the acts or omissions of others (including your client).	File
		C.1.5	You treat colleagues (others?) fairly and with respect. You do not bully or harass them or discriminate unfairly against them. If you are a manager you challenge behaviour that does not meet this standard.	
2	Dispute resolutions and proceedings before courts, tribunals and inquiries.	C.2.1	You do not misuse or tamper with evidence or attempt to do so.	
		C.2.2	You do not seek to influence the substance of evidence, including generating false evidence or persuading witnesses to change their evidence.	
		C.2.4	You only make assertions or put forward statements, representations or submissions to the court or others which are properly arguable.	
		C.2.6	You do not waste the court's time	
3	Service and Competence	C.3.2	You ensure that the service you provide to clients is competent	File
		C.3.3	You maintain your competence to carry out your role and keep your professional knowledge and skills up to date	File
		C.3.4	You consider and take account of your client's attributes, needs and circumstances.	File
5	Referrals and Introductions	C.5.1.D	You do not receive payments relating to a referral or make payments to an introducer in respect of clients who are the subject of criminal proceedings	
		C.5.1.E	Any client referred by an introducer has not been acquired in a way which would breach the SRA's regulatory arrangements if the person acquiring the client were regulated by the SRA	
6	Conflict, confidentiality and disclosure	C.6.1	You do not act if there is an own interest conflict or a significant risk of such a conflict	File
		C.6.2	You do not act in relation to a matter or particular aspect of it if you have a conflict of interest or a significant risk of such a conflict in relation to that matter or aspect of it	File
7	Cooperation and Accountability	C.7.9	You do not subject any person to detrimental treatment for making or proposing to make a report or providing or proposing to provide information based on a reasonably held belief under paragraph 7.7 or 7.8 above, or paragraph 3.9, 3.10, 9.1(d) or (e) or 9.2(b) or (c) of the SRA Code of Conduct for Firms, irrespective of whether the SRA or another approved regulator subsequently investigates or takes any action in relation to the facts or matters in question.	
8	Service to a Public	C.8.1	You identify who you are acting for in relation to any matter.	File
		C.8.2	You ensure that, as appropriate in the circumstances, you either establish and maintain, or participate in, a procedure for handling complaints in relation to the legal services you provide	File
		C.8.8	You ensure that any publicity in relation to your practice is accurate and not misleading, including that relating to your charges and the circumstances in which interest is payable by or to clients	File
		C.8.9	You do not make unsolicited approaches to members of the public	

<u>Allegation of breach of</u>	<u>Allegation [x] of (...)</u>					
Principle 1	Aggravating factors	Exh Ref.	Evidence in Support	p.	¶	Date
<u>Failing to act with integrity</u>	Lorem Ipsum	1.1.1	<u>Personal Statement</u>	x	●	xx.xx.24
		1.1.2	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in which Ms Walker (...) cross ref.</u>	x	●	xx.xx.24
		1.1.3	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in</u>	x	●	xx.xx.24
		1.1.4	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in</u>	x	●	xx.xx.24
		1.1.5	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in</u>	x	●	xx.xx.24
		1.1.6	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in</u>	x	●	xx.xx.24
<u>Failing to disclose relevant evidence</u>	Lorem Ipsum	1.2.1	<u>Personal Statement</u>	x		
		1.2.2	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in which Ms Walker (...) cross ref.</u>	x		
		1.2.3	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in</u>	x		
		1.2.4	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in</u>	x		
		1.2.5	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in</u>			
		1.2.6	<u>Document/Email/Complaint in</u>			