

Money Laundering

1. Proof of Identity

Government regulations may mean that we may ask you to prove who you are if you are a new client, or if we have not taken instructions from you for some time. This is because the Government has introduced measures to make it more difficult for criminals to make and keep money from their crimes and to enable the Government to confiscate the Proceeds of Crime. For this reason, there are compulsory checks which solicitors may have to make about their clients. Being asked for identification does not mean that you are under suspicion. The identification requirements apply to all clients when they are asking their solicitors to conduct certain types of cases.

This means that you will have to show us some personal documents which can include: -

- Current signed Passport
- Photocard Driving Licence
- Benefit documents
- A recent utility bill such as Gas or Electricity or other household bill addressed to yourself and shows your address

2. Confidentiality

Solicitors are under an obligation to keep the affairs of their clients confidential. This obligation, however, is subject to a statutory exception whereby solicitors can be under a legal duty, in certain circumstances, to disclose information to the National Crime Intelligence Service and other Government Agencies.

Where a solicitor knows or suspects that a transaction on behalf of a client involves money laundering, the solicitor may be required to make a money laundering disclosure. If this happens, we may not be able to inform you that a disclosure has or will be made or of the reasons for it because the law prohibits “tipping off”.

We may, in compliance with our statutory obligations, also require that you identify the legitimate source of the monies or other assets that you might ask us to deal with.