



**Berry & Berry seeking justice for 250 years**

**Legal Assistance is a system of government funding for those who cannot afford to pay for legal advice, assistance and representation**

### Different Kinds of Legal Assistance

- Legal Advice and Assistance covers advice and help with any legal problem and in some cases assistance by way of representation
- Criminal Legal Assistance is available for almost all criminal offences
- In addition, duty solicitors are available at most magistrates courts and police stations and offer free legal advice
- A court may grant non-means tested representation for some court proceedings

### Legal Services Commission

We are a contract holder with the Legal Services Commission and we are authorised to work under the Legal Services Commission contract providing free legal advice and assistance in appropriate cases.

### Qualifying for Legal Assistance

There are many different tests for different types of Legal Assistance. We can quickly and efficiently lead you through the maze and advise you as to your suitability and your eligibility for funding.

As contract holders, we have special powers not available to non-contract holders to help you with your 'Legal Assistance' application.

### Criminal Legal Assistance For Criminal Offences

You are able to obtain Legal Assistance for most criminal offences and a solicitor can, if necessary, come and see you at a police station. Berry & Berry has practicing solicitors on the panel and the duty solicitor scheme. In most circumstances, we can represent you for no fee.

We will investigate your case thoroughly and ensure a properly completed application for Assistance is made. If you are held in custody at a police station, you will get free advice and again, our panel solicitor or duty solicitor can advise you on the telephone or come and see you at the police station in appropriate circumstances.

### The Benefit to You

As part of our code of client care, we will ensure that you are properly advised about all aspects of legal costs should these arise at any time during the proceedings. We will advise you how any changes in your financial circumstances may affect the contribution you pay towards legal costs. We will always ensure that your case is handled and managed cost effectively.

If you have a problem and would like advice about Legal Assistance then you should contact us to explore the situation and agree a course of action. Our experienced and qualified team is available for representation during office hours on (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30) on the telephone numbers below or outside these hours by contacting the 24-hour emergency service on telephone number 07528 270 096



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