

Thinking of getting an immigration lawyer?

Rogue solicitors are known to pick on people they think are vulnerable – including migrants.

While most legal advisers are professionals who want to help you, your case is too important not to be cautious. Don't get caught out.



Top tips for seeking advice from an immigration lawyer

If it's not in writing it never happened: Ensure you get your Client Care Letter and advice letter, plus copies of all applications, refusals, and other correspondence involving the Home Office, and evidence of postage.

Get prices upfront, and know what exactly you're paying for at each stage. If paying for help filling a form, is the work they're doing worth it?

Know the merits of your case. Endless applications where your situation hasn't changed and you have been refused can do more harm than good.

Always ask how strong your case is, what rules mean and how they apply to you. It's your lawyer's job to help you understand the law so you can give them well-informed instructions.

Don't sign anything unless you know what you're signing.

Get second opinions. It's **your** case and you can do your own research, and bring a friend to meetings to ask questions/ help make things clear.

Communicate in writing when not having a face-to-face meetings.

Be polite - don't give a solicitor an excuse not to deal with you.

If you're not happy with your lawyer, complain to them first. If they don't respond within eight weeks, or you aren't happy with their response, you may be able to complain to the Legal Ombudsman (website: www.legalombudsman.org.uk | email: enquiries@legalombudsman.org.uk). Migrant Voice does not offer immigration or other legal advice.

You should expect to have

- the name of the person dealing with your case and their job title, hours and contact details.
- information on whether you are eligible for legal aid.
- regular contact
- your case kept confidential.

You should expect to see one of these logos on your solicitor's papers. Unregistered solicitors are illegal and getting your money back is often impossible.



For more information contact us:

t: @migrantvoiceuk

fb: fb.com/migrantvoiceuk

w: migrantvoice.org

e: info@migrantvoice.org