

Data Processing Notice for Applicants to The Solicitors' Charity

How We Process Your Personal Information

The Solicitors' Charity processes your personal information, including special category data (e.g., health or financial details), to assess your application, administer any awards, or provide other support services. We rely on our **legitimate interests** as a charitable organisation to process this data, as permitted under Article 6(1)(f) of the UK GDPR. Our legitimate interests include:

- Fairly and efficiently processing applications to provide financial or other support to eligible individuals.
- Administering awards and coordinating support services in line with our charitable mission.
- Conducting due diligence to verify eligibility, such as confirming your date of birth, date of entry to the roll of solicitors of England & Wales, and address details as held by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) on its Solicitors' Register.

Your personal data is stored securely on an encrypted database and handled in strict confidence, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, UK GDPR, and our Data Protection Policy (available on request).

What Are Legitimate Interests?

As a member of the public applying for our services, you should know that "legitimate interests" means we process your data because it is necessary to achieve our charitable goals, such as helping solicitors in need, while ensuring your rights and privacy are protected. We only use your information in ways that are reasonable and expected, such as reviewing your application or managing an award. We have carefully assessed (under Article 6(1)(f)) that our need to process your data does not unfairly impact your rights or freedoms.

How We Process Your Special Category Data

For special category data, such as health information, we also rely on Article 9(2)(g), which allows processing such data as necessary for reasons of substantial public interest such as providing you with confidential counselling, advice and support. Where we have specifically requested your explicit consent to process your special category data for one or more specific purposes, we rely on Article 9(2)(a). [We may also rely on Article 9(2)(d), which allows processing by a not-for-profit organisation for its legitimate activities, provided we have appropriate safeguards in place].

Sharing Your Information

We may share your personal data with specific agencies, such as money management advisors or language translation services, that work with us to deliver our charitable services. We may also share personal data such as your date of birth, passport number or address with Smart Search, the company that we use to carry out ID verification checks. This sharing is strictly limited to what is necessary for conducting anti-money laundering checks, processing your application, administering an award, or coordinating volunteer services (if you choose to volunteer). These agencies are bound by confidentiality agreements and data protection laws. Please note that we verify your details with the SRA, but no information about your application is shared with them.

Sharing Special Category Data with Partner Services

To provide tailored support, we may need to share your special category data (e.g., health or medical information) with trusted partner services, such as those providing specialised support for individuals with a particular disability or medical condition, or health and social care services. We will only share this data after informing you first and ensuring it is necessary for delivering our services.

This processing is permitted under Article 9(2)(g) of the UK GDPR, which allows processing for reasons of substantial public interest, such as provision of confidential counselling, advice and support, provided it is proportionate and safeguards are in place.

Smart Search, the company that we use to carry out ID verification checks, will ask you to send them a photograph of yourself (biometric data) for anti-money laundering purposes. We will not have access to this data. For details of how Smart Search processes your information, please refer to Smart Search's Privacy Notice.

Providing Information About Others

If you provide personal information about another person (e.g., spouse, partner, or colleague) to support your application, you must ensure you have their permission to share their data with us, as required under Article 5(1)(a) of the UK GDPR (lawful, fair, and transparent processing).

Your Rights

Under the UK GDPR (Articles 15–22), you have rights regarding your personal data, including the right to access, correct, or restrict its use. You can also object to our processing based on legitimate interests. To exercise these rights or learn more about how we handle your data, please refer to our Data Protection Policy or contact us directly.