

# SEEKING IMMIGRATION GUIDANCE?

Understanding the immigration system, as well as being familiar with the details of your own legal case is very important. It is crucial to understand the specifics of your case. This is your personal matter, influencing your life, and it's essential to have accurate information and know your rights.



## Key information to consider

### 1 Contact a qualified immigration lawyer or immigration adviser:

In the UK, individuals seeking immigration advice can obtain assistance from either an immigration adviser or an immigration lawyer. Both professionals are authorised to provide guidance on immigration matters, but there are differences in their qualifications and the level of services they can offer.



**Immigration lawyers** are qualified solicitors or barristers who specialise in immigration law. They are regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) or the Bar Standards Board (BSB) and have completed the necessary legal training.



**For immigration lawyers:** Only trust law regulated professionals

**Where:**

Link here: [The Law Society - Find a solicitor](#)



**Immigration advisers** are individuals who are registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC).



**For immigration advisers:** Only trust professionals authorised by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner ('OISC').

**Where:**

Link here: [GOV UK - Find an immigration adviser](#)

### 2 Rely on Official Government Websites

Access accurate and up-to-date information directly from government sources. Beware of misinformation; rely on official channels.

Where to find it:

**GOV UK**

Link here: [GOV UK Visas and immigration](#)

**The Right To Remain**

Link here: [The Right to Remain Toolkit - A guide to the UK immigration and asylum system](#)

### 3 Contact your Consulate

Consulates can provide information about consular services, visa processes, and other country-specific details.

# PROTECT YOURSELF

When seeking immigration guidance, bear in mind:

## Do not trust miracle promises:

Be cautious of unrealistic assurances. Genuine immigration processes take time and adherence to legal procedures

## Get a second opinion:

It's prudent to seek multiple perspectives. Don't hesitate to consult with another qualified immigration professional for confirmation.

## Research your immigration or adviser lawyer before making any payment:

Verify the credentials and reputation of your chosen immigration lawyer or solicitor. Ensure they are authorised by the the competent body and have a track record of reliable service.

## Beware of high-pressure tactics:

Avoid professionals who pressure you into making quick decisions or payments. Legitimate experts will give you the time you need to make informed choices.

## Watch out for hidden fees:

Clarify all potential costs upfront and be wary of hidden fees. Transparent communication is crucial in establishing trust.

## Avoid sharing sensitive information without assurance:

Be cautious about sharing personal and sensitive information without ensuring the legitimacy of the source. Protect your privacy and only provide details to trusted professionals.

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## How to Make a Complaint

If you encounter any issues or believe you have received inadequate service, you could make a complaint to:

- **Law Society or Bar Association:** For complaints on an immigration solicitor, you can contact the Law Society in England and Wales or the relevant Bar Association. They have procedures for handling complaints against legal professionals. Link here: [The LAW Society - Complain about a solicitor](#)
- **Contact the OISC:** If your immigration advisor is regulated by the OISC, you can file a complaint directly with them. Visit their website for guidance on the complaints process. Link here: [Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner](#)

**ENSURE YOUR IMMIGRATION JOURNEY IS INFORMED AND SECURE**

**SEEK EXPERT ADVICE AND RELY ON OFFICIAL SOURCES**

