



## A decision to close a practice

We can, in effect, close a practice. We call this an "intervention". An intervention is a step taken to protect [clients'](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#client) [interests and money](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#client), in the [public interest](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#public-interest) [. It is often an urgent protective measure](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#public-interest), and does not necessarily mean we have made any findings against the regulated [firm](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#firm) [individual](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#firm), such as a solicitor or a registered European lawyer.

The main things that we do during an intervention:

- Stop the firm from operating; take possession of all documents and papers held by the firm (including [clients'](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#client) [papers](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#client)), and
- Take possession of all money held by the firm (including clients' money).

[Legislation](#) [\[#legislation\]](#) gives us a range of reasons for intervention. These are known as "grounds".

We can intervene if, for example:

- there are [grounds](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#grounds) [to intervene](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/using-solicitor/legal-jargon-explained#grounds), such as abandonment or suspected dishonesty, and
- an intervention is needed to protect the public.

We will generally immediately publish a decision to intervene. This to let members of the public know that the firm has closed. The detail we publish will usually include the details of the agents, normally a law firm, that we have asked to help us manage the intervention.

If you are the client of a firm that we have closed in this way, read [more about interventions](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/solicitor-closed-down/intervention/) [. You can find advice on what to do next and how to](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/solicitor-closed-down/intervention/) [claim back money and papers that we may be holding](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/claim-papers/) [. You can find advice on what to do next and how to](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/claim-papers/)

[Employees](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/solicitor-closed-down/intervention-employees-effect/) [and](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/solicitor-closed-down/intervention-employees-effect/) [trade creditors](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/solicitor-closed-down/intervention-debt-creditors/) [of firms that we have closed](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/problems/solicitor-closed-down/intervention-debt-creditors/) can also find guidance on what to do next. Legal professionals and experts may also be able to claim money for fees that they are owed.

## Important notes

Not all regulatory decisions are published—read more about [our approach to publication](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/solicitor-check/policy/) [https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/solicitor-check/policy/].

Only decisions made since early 2008 are published on this site. Most decisions remain on the site three years.

For the most up-to-date and complete picture of an individual's regulatory record, please [contact us](https://referral.sra.org.uk/home/contact-us/) [https://referral.sra.org.uk/home/contact-us/].

Read more about [how we regulate](https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/who-we-are/sra-regulate/) [https://referral.sra.org.uk/consumers/who-we-are/sra-regulate/].