

A Guide to Peer Review

DG Legal is pleased to offer two half day courses about the Legal Aid Agency's (LAA's) approach to Peer Review (PR) in Crime and Family. This will provide an invaluable insight into the way that Peer Reviewers conduct the audit.

The courses will cover various areas including:

- An overview of the PR process
- Why the LAA are stepping up Peer Reviews
- The scoring system
- What Peer Reviewers look for
- Examples of good practice
- Examples of poor practice
- Specimen client care letters, proformas and forms
- Tips and pitfalls to avoid

Influenced by the experience of ex-Senior Peer Reviewers we aim for providers to be in the best position possible by increasing their knowledge and skills in relation to the PR audit process.

Why You Should Attend?

The LAA has stepped up all peer review activity in both Family and Crime. In particular, it has decided to Peer Review all crime firms over a two year period. We are noticing a spike in firms receiving a rating of '4' - below competence.

The courses are aimed at all family and crime practitioners operating a LAA contract. The content of the course is relevant to all managers, principals and lawyers who want to improve their understanding for ongoing reference or cascade training. The course is designed to help providers to minimise the chance of failing a Peer Review, receiving a Contract Notice and facing the stress of having to pass a second audit in order to retain their contract.

Course Notes

Comprehensive and up to date course notes will be provided to all delegates, which will be useful for ongoing reference and cascade training.

Speakers

Crime - Geoff Bell, Senior Partner, Stevens Solicitors

Geoff trained and qualified as a magistrates' court clerk before joining Stevens Solicitors in Stoke on Trent in 1989. He became the Senior/Managing Partner in 2001 and the practice has grown to become one of the largest criminal defence practices in the country. Geoff was appointed as a Peer Reviewer in crime in 2004 and thereafter was appointed a senior panel member, reviewing and validating the work of other peer reviewers and actively involved in peer reviewer training. During his 12 years as a peer reviewer, he has carried out and validated very many reports.

Family - Jonathan Comyn-Platt, Solicitor, Platt Halpern

Jon is a highly respected solicitor specialising in Children and Family law. He was appointed as a senior Peer Reviewer in Family Law and is widely respected as a legal authority in the North West region. In particular, he provides expert coaching and advisory services to law firms seeking advice about Peer Review or legal development. For over 30 years, he was BBC Radio Manchester's Legal Eagle. He has been President of both the Oldham Law Association and the Association of North West Law Societies.

David Gilmore, Director, DG Legal

David has assisted numerous firms in preparing for peer review audits and in successfully challenging results.

Dates

Separate half day courses are being run for Family and Crime

London:

Family - 26 June 2017: 10.00 – 13.00

Crime - 26 June 2017: 14.00 – 17.00

Warrington:

Family - 27 June 2017: 10.00 – 13.00

Crime - 27 June 2017: 14.00 – 17.00

Delegate Fee: £199 plus VAT for a half day course

Terms and Conditions

1. Confirmation of your booking will be sent by email through Eventbrite. If you have not received this acknowledgement prior to the date of the course please contact us. Payments may be made online (subject to 2% processing fee). Alternatively, a VAT invoice may be sent separately to you. Invoices are due for payment within 14 days of the date of the invoice. Course documentation will be distributed at the time of the course.
2. Once submitted this booking form constitutes a legally binding contract. Bookings may only be cancelled by written notice received by us not less than 10 working days before the date of the course. We cannot accept cancellations by telephone. The delegate fee will be credited to you less an administration charge of £25 + VAT per delegate booking that is cancelled. Refunds of delegate fees for late

cancellations (i.e. cancellations received by us less than 10 working days before the date of the course) will not be refunded. Failure to attend the course will constitute late cancellation and payment will still be due or forfeited if already paid.

3. You may notify us of a substitute delegate at any stage, without charge.
4. DG Legal reserves the right to vary or cancel a course where the occasion necessitates. We will refund any payment made in respect of a cancelled course but otherwise do not accept any liability for a course not taking place.
5. Data Protection: DG Legal may periodically contact you with details of programmes and services that may be of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be included in this activity.

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Registration

To reserve a place on any of the half day courses, please visit: <http://dglegal.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Delegate Fee: A discount may be available for retainer clients - please contact us for confirmation.

For enquiries, please contact : Event Administration, DG Legal, 39 The Rushes, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 5BG, telephone: 01509 214999, or email: admin@dglegal.co.uk