

# Privacy Notice - GDPR compliant

## Introduction

MTA Solicitors collects uses and is responsible for personal information about you. When we do this we are the 'controller' of this information for the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation and other applicable data protection laws.

We have appointed Michael Taylor as our Data Protection Officer.

Please read the following information carefully. This privacy notice contains information about what data we collect and store about you and why. It also tells you who we share this information with, the security mechanisms we have put in place to protect your data and how to contact us if you have a complaint.

## What information do we collect?

We seek to collect information about you so that we can complete the legal service for which we have been engaged. We collect the following personal and sensitive information that you provide to us, which includes but is not limited to:

- Name, Date of Birth, National Insurance Number and contact details (including your address, email and phone numbers);
- Information relating to your case and any goods or services relevant to your case;
- Identification documents such as driving license, passport, photo ID, utility statements and bank statements;
- Financial information about you such as your employment status, position and remuneration packages and bank details
- Information about your family or next of kin that you give to us in relation to your matter or to our engagement with you at the firm(s);
- Personal information held in Wills, Deeds and Trust arrangements;

Most of the information collected will have been provided by you, however there may be instances where the data comes from other sources or third parties, for example a broker.

## How we use your personal information

We use your personal information for the following purposes:

- to provide you with legal services and respond to enquiries;
- to comply with our legal obligations to the SRA and other relevant regulators;
- to manage any queries or complaints you have about the services you receive;
- to engage with service and goods providers;
- to train and develop our colleagues;

- to monitor the quality of service we deliver to you, and ensure it meets your expectations;
- to comply with legal obligations to act in the public interest and uphold the rule of law;
- to introduce you to other professional service providers that can meet your needs;
- to protect our colleagues, visitors and offices, and to detect and report crime at our offices;

We rely on consent through contract as the legal basis for processing your information. We are also a professional regulated firm and are bound by regulations specific to a solicitors practice and by general regulations applicable to all UK businesses. Parts of these regulations require us to process your data.

## Who will we share your personal information with?

We have relationships with a number of third parties that we routinely share personal data relating to your case within the scope of the contract. These Third Parties we use are available on request. This data sharing enables us to:

- perform the services you have instructed us on by sharing data with third parties;
- manage the day-to-day operations of the firm and gain advice from legal, financial and other professional advisers;
- operate the infrastructure of the firm by engaging with software and service providers used to undertake your matter including: case management providers; time recording providers; document storage providers; file sharing providers and conferencing providers;
- engage with storage and archiving providers to ensure your information is protected securely and backed up.

Any partners, suppliers or third parties we share data with will be bound by strict agreements that meet the requirements of GDPR and will be reviewed for their compliance on an annual basis.

We will share personal information with law enforcement agencies if required by applicable law.

We will not share your personal information with any other third parties without your consent.

## How long will we store your personal data?

We will only keep your information for as long as necessary to complete the purposes we have described above. We use the following retention periods and review these periodically to make sure we are only keeping what we need:

- Matter information – we will keep information about you and any information relating to your matter for a period of time ranging between 6 – 16 years (depending on the type of instruction and case matter involved) after the matter has ended or one year after any relevant limitation period, whichever is longer. The relevant period will be

clearly stated to you within our client care letter and information pack at the time of engaging us. If you would like more information please contact us.

- Identification and Due Diligence – we will keep information that we need to complete anti-money laundering and due diligence checks for a minimum period of 5 years from the end of the last matter we worked on for you; this is in order to comply with our anti-money laundering obligations. If you continue to work with us, we will update this information at least every 3 years;
- Financial Transactions – we will keep information about you and any financial transactions, including fees paid and payments for services, for a period of 6 years, in order to comply with HMRC requirements to keep accurate records that can be audited;

## Your Rights

Under the General Data Protection Regulation, you have a number of important rights that you can exercise free of charge. In summary, these rights are:

- Transparency over how we use your personal data and fair processing of your information;
- Access to your personal information and other supplementary information;
- Require us to correct any mistakes or complete missing information we hold on you;
- Require us to erase your personal information in certain circumstances;
- Receive a copy of the personal information you have provided to us or have this information be sent to a third party, this will be provided to you or the third party in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format;
- Object at any time to processing of your personal information for direct marketing;
- Object in certain other situations to the continued processing of your personal information;
- Restrict our processing of your personal information in certain circumstances;
- Request not to be subject to automated decision making which produce legal effects that concern you or affect you in a significantly similar way;

If you want more information about your rights under the GDPR please see the Guidance from the Information Commissioners Office on [Individual's rights under the GDPR](#).

If you want to exercise any of these rights, please:

- Email us at [compliance@hrspecialists.co.uk](mailto:compliance@hrspecialists.co.uk)
- Write to us (for the attention of Michael Taylor, our Data Protection Officer)
- Provide other information so that we can identify you, for example Name, Contact Details, Case reference number, as we may need to contact you to request further information to verify your identity;
- Let us have proof of your identity and address;
- State the right or rights that you wish to exercise;

We will respond to you within one month from when we receive your request.

## How to make a complaint?

We hope that you are happy with our service and that we/our Data Protection Officer can resolve any issues or complaints that arise. Please get in touch if you have any concerns (see 'Get in touch' below).

You can also find detailed information and advice on the Information Commissioner's website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk) and should you be dissatisfied with how we have handled your data you are entitled to complain to the ICO.

## Automated Decision Making

We do not use automated decision making.

## Our Security

We will keep your personal information confidential and will take appropriate measures to protect it against loss, theft or misuse and to safeguard your privacy.

Where you are provided with any confidential information (including a user ID or password), you must not disclose such information to any third party.

## Changes to this privacy notice

We reserve the right to update this policy at any time and any changes we make to our privacy policy will be posted on this page. We encourage you to check this privacy policy from time to time for any updates or changes to this policy.

## Get in touch

If you have any questions about this privacy notice or the information we hold about you, please contact us by emailing us at [compliance@hrspecialists.co.uk](mailto:compliance@hrspecialists.co.uk)

## Alternative formats

If it would be helpful to have this notice provided in another format (for example: in another language, audio, braille) please contact us (see 'Get in touch' above).