



# Guide to dispute resolution

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Whilst this is a guide to dispute resolution it focuses on matters which ultimately end up in court litigation. Although most disputes are settled without going to court, and the modern approach is very much to consider litigation as a last resort, litigation remains the most common formal method of dispute resolution.

This guide takes you through the litigation process whilst also identifying alternative ways to resolve disputes.

## Terminology

As with most specialist subjects, there is a good deal of terminology connected with litigation. We have attempted to avoid jargon in this guide but as some is inescapable we have included a glossary, explaining the terms used, at the end of the guide.

## The aim of this guide

Litigation is governed by a large number of rules which set out what must be done at each stage, the way in which it must be done and the time limit for doing it.

This guide explains key steps in the process and identifies where your solicitor is likely to require information, instructions or assistance from you, either as a claimant or as a defendant. It assumes that you will have a legal advisor acting for you and references to 'we' and 'us' are to Cripps or the person from this firm dealing with the matter.

This guide is not intended to constitute legal or other advice. Legal advice should always be sought in relation to any particular circumstances. It does not, for example, deal with claims which are specialist proceedings or appeals. In addition, it is focused on 'fast track' or 'multi-track' actions and many of the rules discussed are not relevant to 'small claims' which operate under a simpler procedure.

We have produced a guide to the small claims procedure. Please ask your contact at Cripps for a copy or you can find it on our [website](#) (Search for 'Guide to dealing with a small claim'). Generally, the value of the claim determines the track that will apply.

Value of claim	Procedure
Up to £10,000	Small claims
£10,000 to £25,000	Fast track
Over £25,000	Multi-track



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