



About Us

The Faculty of Advocates is an independent body which regulates the training and professional practice, conduct and discipline of advocates.

The Disciplinary Tribunal deals with the following types of business:

- Complaints of professional misconduct referred to Faculty by the SLCC
- Complaints of unsatisfactory professional conduct referred to Faculty by the SLCC
- Appeals against decisions of the Faculty Complaints Committee

Tribunal Diary

All hearings are available on the Faculty of Advocates Complaints page. <https://www.advocates.org.uk/making-a-complaint/disciplinary-tribunals>

Hearings may be subject to change at short notice. The diary is updated regularly. Please check before you travel.

Some cases are held in private. When the Faculty has advance notice that a case is to be held in private, this is detailed on the Disciplinary Tribunals page. Members of the media and public are not allowed in the Tribunal hearing room for cases which are being held in private.

Types of Hearings

A **procedural hearing** is a short hearing to ascertain whether or not the facts in the case are in dispute, what evidence will be required and whether there are any preliminary issues to be decided before a full hearing can be fixed.

If legal matters are raised, it may be that a **preliminary hearing/debate** is required to deal with issues such as competency, relevancy, delay or Human Rights.

A **full hearing** (also referred to as a substantive hearing) is fixed in most cases. Evidence may be led or the case can be dealt with by submissions.

Before Attending

It would be helpful if members of the media could give notice to the Faculty if they wish to attend a hearing. The email address is complaints@advocates.org.uk The telephone number is 0131 260 5689.

At the Hearing

On the day of the hearing, it is helpful if members of the media arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the hearing. Please report to the Bar Officer of the Tribunal on arrival.

No photography, recordings or interviews are permitted within the Tribunal venue.

Members of the media attending a hearing should not ask questions directly of any of the Tribunal Members.

At the start of some full hearings, the Chair will read out the charges of professional misconduct contained within the Complaint. This is to inform members of the public and media of the allegations made against the advocate concerned. Professional misconduct which is admitted or proved will be set out in the written decision of the Tribunal. This might be different to the charges of professional misconduct read out at the beginning of the hearing.

Reporting

It is possible that the names of children or vulnerable witnesses may be mentioned during the course of hearings. The media is requested not to report their names or any other references which might identify them.

More Information

You can find out more information about the Faculty complaints process on our website. <https://www.advocates.org.uk/making-a-complaint>