
THB Solicitors

Information for clients: Motoring Offences

Introduction

As part of our professional rules, we aim to ensure that anyone wishing to use our services has the information they need to make an informed choice of legal services provider, including understanding what the costs may be.

Why instruct THB Solicitors?

From our offices located across Essex and East Anglia THB Solicitors provides the very best advice and representation in Criminal Legal Aid and privately funded matters.

Our large Criminal Defence Team has been defending successfully in serious, complex and high-profile criminal cases including murder and fraud for over 30 years, establishing a superb reputation in criminal defence work. We provide a quality service from the Police Station to the Court of Appeal in Legal Aid and privately funded cases.

We have a huge amount of experience of advising and representing people accused of offences ranging from Speeding to Causing Death by Dangerous Driving and other road fatality incidents. Our proven track record in helping people keep their licenses has enabled us to build a strong reputation in this area of law. We will fight for you where others won't. Unlike many national firms, we will not refer work to self-employed agents. We will allocate you a specialist lawyer who will be available to you throughout the process.

Motoring offence, summary onlyⁱ and Special Reasonsⁱⁱ

Our Fees

Guilty Plea – Minimum Fixed Fee: £500 + vat
Special Reasons – Minimum Fixed Fee £750 + vat

What is included?

- Attendance and/or preparation;
- Considering evidence;
- Taking your instructions;
- Providing advice on likely sentence;
- Attendance and representation at a single hearing at the Magistrates Court.

What is not included?

- Instruction of any expert witnesses;
- Taking statements from any witnesses;
- Advice and assistance in relation to a Special Reasonsⁱⁱⁱ hearing;
- Advice or assistance in relation to any appeal.

Key stages involved

The key stages of your matter are based on the presumption that you have entered a guilty plea and have a date for your hearing. They typically include:

- Meet with you to provide instructions on what happened;
- Consider initial disclosure, and any other evidence and provide advice;
- Arranging to take any witness statements, if necessary (this will have an additional cost, of £180 per hour of work undertaken)
- Explain the court procedure to you so you know what to expect on the day of your hearing, and the sentencing options available to the Court;
- Conduct any further preparatory work, obtain further instructions from you, if necessary, and answer any follow up queries you have;
- Attend court on the day, meet with you before going before the court. We anticipate being at court for up to several hours depending on how busy the court list might be.
- Discuss the outcome with you and advise you if necessary on your options for appeal against sentence or conviction.

Please note we cannot provide a more exact timescale of when your hearing will take place, as this depends on the court listing for that day.

Our Motoring Offences Team

Mike Warren

Partner and Head of Motoring Offences Team

Mike qualified as a Solicitor in 1994 and has over 20 years' experience of criminal defence and regulatory work. Having previously spent some 15 years as both a Partner and Department Head at another Essex Practice Mike joined the firm in 2011 when he and his litigation team merged with THB.

Mike's work covers the complete spectrum of criminal and regulatory allegations however he has a particular speciality in the area of serious and complex crime such as high value Fraud investigations with extensive volume of evidence and multi defendant conspiracies. Mike has acted for both individual and corporate defendants facing the most serious and complex charges including murder, large scale drug importations, sexual offences, trading standards offences and environmental prosecutions. With a client base ranging from professional footballers and high net worth individuals to international PLCs, he remains a highly respected practitioner gaining regular national recognition in the Legal 500 and Chambers UK (Guide to the UK Legal Profession).

Being able to draw on such wide experience, each client can be assured of the highest quality of service and astute strategic advice from the outset of their case. Mike is currently instructed

in matters involving historic Rape and child sexual offending, HMRC Frauds and a substantial multi agency Trading Standards investigation into Fraud and breaches of Consumer Protection Regulations.

Mike is regularly instructed to deal with privately instructed work where clients are facing motoring offences which place their driving licence in jeopardy.

Mike was among the very first Solicitors to obtain Higher Rights of Audience and regularly conducts his own advocacy in the Crown Court and Court of Appeal.

Aside from his casework responsibilities Mike is the COLP and COFA at THB and leads the firms continued Law Society Lexcel Accreditation programme recognising excellence in Practice Management and Client Care.

Gavin Burrell

Partner

Gavin is the partner responsible for our Braintree office.

Gavin's practice includes all forms of criminal cases although he specialises in Crown Court work often involving serious allegations including homicides, offences of serious violence, sexual offences and fraud. In his role as a Solicitor Advocate Gavin is able to both prepare cases for trial and also defend those cases at trial using his Higher Rights of Audience. Clients are often pleased to have continuity of service with Gavin's work preparing cases and representing those clients in the role of an advocate at court.

The wealth of experience Gavin has gained in defending all types of criminal cases means that he is extremely well placed to provide his strategic tactical approach in order to defend his clients securing the best outcome possible.

Paul Donegan

Partner

Paul is the Partner in charge of our Ipswich office.

Paul's practice began in the Magistrates' Court. He developed an almost unrivalled client following due to his meticulous work ethic and approachable nature. Very quickly Paul gained his Higher Rights of Audience and now more regularly appears in the Crown Court.

A skilled advocate, Paul now undertakes complex and often lengthy Crown Court trials for clients accused of the most serious offences including drug trafficking matters and serious sexual offences. The results speak for themselves and this is why Paul is called upon to defend many high profile cases.

Ian Fisher

Partner

Ian is the Partner responsible for our Norwich office.

Ian deals with all aspects of criminal defence and road traffic law. He also deals with “satellite” work related to these core areas. For example, having represented a well-known professional boxer in criminal proceedings, Ian also represented him at a hearing before the British Boxing Board of Control; similarly, having acted for a medical doctor at the Crown Court, Ian represented the client at a subsequent contested hearing before the General Medical Council. Ian has also represented members of the judiciary and the legal profession.

Being from Norwich and having been predominantly educated and working in that “fine City” for most of his career, Ian has developed a strong client following and is widely-regarded as a shrewd legal tactician and a strong advocate.

Last update: December 2018

- I. A summary only offence is an offence which can only be tried in the magistrates' court. There are exceptions. Under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (CJA 1988) offences specified in the Act can be tried on indictment by a jury if they are linked to an offence triable only in the Crown Court. The principal summary only offences are:
 - driving whilst disqualified
 - careless and inconsiderate driving
 - failing to give information as to the identity of the driver
 - failing to stop or report, and
 - speeding.
- II. Special Reasons pertain exclusively to situations where the accused has been found or has pled guilty and now faces disqualification unless he/she can persuade the Court that the circumstances of the offence are such that it would be unjust to impose a ban.