

# Saunders Law

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Ltd

## **Private Criminal Defence**

A guide for clients.

### **Legal Aid may not be available to defendants:-**

- In the Magistrates Court, those receiving £22,235 or more per year (after household living costs and family circumstances) will not qualify for legal aid. *Those receiving between £12,475 and £22,235 per year (after household living costs and family circumstances) may not qualify for legal aid, depending on disposable income.*
- In the Crown Court –those with a monthly disposable income of over £283 have to pay legal aid contributions up front. These contributions are 90% of disposable income for 5 months. [See guidance document](#)

### **If Legal Aid Funding is available, why would I pay my lawyer privately?**

Whether you pay privately or receive legal aid, we will give you the best possible advice and service. But in our experience, paying privately can suit some clients better.

### **Why is that?**

- When you instruct us privately, a third party does not control how much we can do - you are in control,
- We use our experience to provide detailed costs estimates from the start. We may even agree a fixed fee to suit your needs,

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- We can give you a clear plan of the progress of your case,
- We can search for and negotiate in your best interests with outside agencies like barristers and expert witnesses for medical, forensic or technical reports.

If you are legally aided, your defence is paid for by the Legal Services Commission, but their payments for barristers and expert witnesses are limited, and in turn this limits your choice. The time it takes for legal aid to be granted and apply for authority to hire necessary experts can also delay the progress of your case. With private funding, we can get working straight away – and on agreed terms.

## **Can I get my costs back if I win?**

If you pay us privately and are acquitted, we will apply for a Defendant's Cost Order.

If granted this will mean that some or all of your legal costs will be paid back from a government fund.

Legal aid remains a proud part of what we do, but this means-tested system means legal aid is not always the best option. We provide the widest choice to our diverse group of clients. Our private funding team is always ready to deliver a fantastic service, and our results consistently speak for themselves.

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## Private Funding with Saunders Law Ltd

Criminal defence work to an exceptional standard that brings real results. Our private client team has been winning notable criminal cases and getting the costs repaid. Some of our recent cases:

### R v S

- Private defence of cash theft by employee of over £90,000 from a high profile medical practice..
- Prosecution dropped the case shortly before trial, following detailed legal arguments.
- 100% of our client's legal costs were returned via a Defendants Costs Order.

Client comments:

*"Alistair Parker was kind, patient and thorough. I was lucky that he dealt with my case. My father was a barrister and I can recognise special quality when I see it. I thank you for saving my life"*

### R v DA & AA

- Private defence of two Kuwaiti nationals accused of false imprisonment and sexual assault, instructed via the Kuwaiti Embassy.
- Clients allowed to return to Kuwait on bail pending trial after the most serious charge was dismissed on our application.

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- Both clients were found 'not guilty'. 97% of their legal costs returned following Defendants Costs Orders.
- Wasted Costs Orders were made against the Prosecution, including refunding AA's airline ticket in returning to London for trial.

Client comments:

*"Thank you. I am so happy with this result"*

**R v AF**

- Part private, part legally-aided defence to charges of possession of bladed article and malicious wounding.
- Client acquitted at the Crown Court.
- 100% of client's private legal costs returned following Defence Costs Order.

Client comments:

*"You managed to work a magic for which you were always noted... you supported me when prospects were dark and finally triumphed with an attitude of dogged diligence"*