

# Sexual Offences Legal Advisors (SOLAs)

Free Independent Legal Support for Victims of Sexual Crime

## What is a SOLA?

Sexual Offences Legal Advisors (SOLAs) are qualified lawyers who can offer legal advice and support to you as a victim of a serious sexual offence.

SOLAs are based in Victim Support NI and are independent from the police and prosecution services.

## How can a SOLA help?


SOLAs can provide relevant information and general legal advice in serious sexual offence cases up to the commencement of the trial.

They are particularly focused on the privacy rights of complainants with respect to the disclosure of medical records or previous sexual history.

They can meet with complainants before a trial to talk about legal issues, the complainant's rights and provide an overview of the process.

Any advice given by the SOLAs to complainants will be confidential and governed by professional privilege.

SOLAs will advocate on your behalf and represent your interests to other organisations within the criminal justice system, like the PPS or PSNI.



**Most importantly, a SOLA will make sure YOUR voice is heard. They will not judge you. They will support you.**

**Legal Advice from a SOLA is completely free, confidential and independent.**



Victim Support NI

[sola@victimsupportni.org.uk](mailto:sola@victimsupportni.org.uk)  
[www.victimsupportni.com/help-for-victims/solas/](http://www.victimsupportni.com/help-for-victims/solas/)  
Belfast Hub 028 9024 3133  
Foyle Hub 028 7137 0086



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An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Máinstryie O tha Laa

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## How can I access the support of a SOLA?

You can access free legal representation from a SOLA if you have reported a serious sexual offence to the PSNI and they are investigating that offence.

You can also speak to a SOLA if you are considering reporting a crime of sexual violence to the police.

This service is currently only available to adults however they can offer support to adults making a complaint of historical sexual abuse.

If you would like to access the support of a SOLA, please ask the police officer in charge of your case to arrange this, or contact us directly at [sola@victimsupportni.org.uk](mailto:sola@victimsupportni.org.uk) for help.

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