

## Thinking of Representing Yourself?

*Substantial reforms have been made to Court procedure and processes in recent times, meaning complying with the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) and Orders of the Court have never been more important.*

Individuals who represent themselves are called 'litigants in person'. Whilst the obvious cost savings of bringing proceedings and representing yourself in court can initially be very attractive, the costs of not understanding and complying with the CPR can be fatal to not only your case, but also to your own or your business' finances.

Another very important consequence to consider is that if you start any legal action against someone else, if you are unsuccessful, you might be liable to pay for their legal costs (whether you have a lawyer or not).

Recent cases in the Court of Appeal have confirmed that if the CPR or an Order of the Court is not complied with (for example, a Court deadline is missed) then the defaulting party will be expected to promptly make an application for relief from sanctions. The applications themselves will also need to be in the proper form and the correct court fee paid.

**If you would like advice on a potential claim you may have or are currently representing yourself and now need assistance, then please contact one of Rooks Rider Solicitor's Dispute Resolution team for a free no obligation discussion.**



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