

What is an Accredited Specialist?

We all know that solicitors are legal experts who have had to study hard to be able to practise Law. But what is an Accredited Specialist?

Solicitors who present themselves as Accredited Specialists not only have the qualifications required to practise Law, they have also undergone further assessment and examination by their relevant Law Society to prove that they have an advanced level of legal expertise in a particular area of the Law.

Specialist Accreditation is a reliable way for the public and the legal profession to identify solicitors who have demonstrated their legal proficiency in a specific area of practice. Only solicitors with this award are permitted to use the Specialist Accreditation logo.



In order to keep their Accredited Specialist status, solicitors must apply for re-accreditation every year, and need to devote at least 25% of their working time to their specialist area of Law.

What are the Specialist areas of Law?

In Queensland, Specialist Accreditation is granted to solicitors who specialise in many areas of Law:

- o Family
- o Personal Injury
- o Property
- o Succession
- o Immigration
- o Criminal
- o Business
- o Commercial Litigation

How can I find out if a Solicitor is an Accredited Specialist?

There are lots of ways to identify solicitors who are Accredited Specialists.

Firstly, you can ask! Your solicitor will be very proud to tell you if he or she is an Accredited Specialist.

You can also watch out for the Specialist Accreditation logo, but be aware that the status of an Accredited Specialist is a personal award that applies only to individual solicitors, not to partnerships or firms. So every time you see the Accredited Specialist logo it should be clearly placed near the name of the individual who has successfully undertaken the Specialist Accreditation course of study.

Accredited Specialists may also use 'post nominals' after their names. For example:

Janice Smith Acc. Spec. (Family)

Solicitors who have gained Specialist Accreditation status are also listed on the Queensland Law Society website findasolicitor.qls.com.au. Here you can find solicitors easily by name, by the region of the state in which they practise, and by the area of speciality.

Remember, if you are in doubt just ask!

