

Complaints Procedure *Noordam Advocatuur*

Article 1: Concept definition

- *Complaint*: In this complaints procedure "complaint" means any dissatisfaction with an attorney or a person working under an attorney's responsibility, expressed in writing by or on behalf of a client and concerning how a request for services has been dealt with, the quality of services, or the amount invoiced, other than a complaint as referred to in article 4 Attorneys Act (Advocatenwet);
- *Complainant*: the client or a representative of the client that has expressed a complaint;
- *Complaints officer*: the attorney in charge of handling complaints.

Article 2: Scope

1. This complaints procedure applies to all services provided to the client by the attorney at *Noordam Advocatuur*, mr. A.J. Noordam.
2. The attorney at *Noordam Advocatuur* will respond to complaints in accordance with this complaints procedure.

Article 3: Purpose

The purpose of this complaints procedure is to:

- a) establish a procedure for constructively dealing with a client's complaint within a reasonable period of time;
- b) establish a procedure for determining the cause of a client's complaint;
- c) maintain and improve existing relationships by correctly dealing with complaints;
- d) train employees to respond to complaints with the client's needs in mind;
- e) improve the quality of services.

Article 4: Information at the start of services

1. This complaints procedure can be viewed on www.noordamadvocatuur.nl. Before providing services to a client, the attorney informs the client that *Noordam Advocatuur* has a complaints procedure which applies to the services.
2. Complaints as described in article 1 of this complaints procedure that have been dealt with but not resolved are, if both parties agree, submitted to 'de Geschillencommissie Advocatuur' (<https://www.degeschillencommissie.nl/over-ons/commissies/advocatuur/>).

Article 5: Internal procedure

1. Every complaint will be passed on to the complaints officer, Mr. A.J. Noordam.
2. The complaints officer informs the attorney to whom the complaint relates of the complaint and gives the complainant and the attorney the opportunity to provide an explanation. If the complaints officer and the attorney to whom complaint relates are one and the same person, the complaints officer will also then deal with the complaint.
3. The attorney to whom complaint relates tries to find a solution together with the client, before or after the complaints officer's intervention.

4. The complaints officer assesses the complaint within four weeks after he has received the complaint. If this deadline is not met, the complaints officer will inform the complainant of this and explain the reasons; he will also specify a new deadline for assessing the complaint.
5. The complaints officer sends a letter to the client and the attorney, setting out his view whether the complaint was justified, and he may make recommendations.
6. If the complaint has been satisfactorily resolved, the complainant, the complaints officer and the attorney concerned sign the letter.

Article 6: Confidentiality and no handling fee

1. The complaints officer and the attorney to whom complaint relates maintain confidentiality while dealing with the complaint.
2. The complainant does not owe any fee for the handling of the complaint.

Article 7: Duties

1. The complaints officer is responsible for the timely resolution of the complaint.
2. The attorney to whom complaint relates keeps the complaints officer informed of his/her contacts with the client and of any possible solution.
3. The complaints officer keeps the client informed of the handling of the complaint.
4. The complaints officer keeps the complaint file up to date.

Article 8: Complaints record

1. The complaints officer files the complaint, specifying the subject matter.
2. A complaint can be divided into several subject matters.
3. The complaints officer periodically reports on how the complaints have been handled and makes recommendations for preventing new complaints and improving procedures.
4. At least once a year, the complaints officer's reports and recommendations are discussed and submitted for decision-making within *Noordam Advocatuur*.