# A guide to selling and buying a property

Instruct A Conveyancer



## Selling and Buying a Property

It is generally considered that moving home is one of the most stressful activities people will do in life. Engaging with the best conveyancing service you can find will significantly improve your moving experience and transform the way that your transaction progresses. Using our carefully selected conveyancing firms ensures that you will get the level of support and customer service you deserve.

Every firm that we make available have proven that they are capable of delivering a first class conveyancing service for clients across England and Wales. They are well established and experienced at what they do and have helped many people in your region, just like you.

Why have we chosen them to represent you? At the start of 2022, we started to mystery shop hundreds of firms across England and Wales to try and identify how they were handling new business enquiries. The results were shocking, with hundreds of firms making it not only impossible to engage with them, but giving the impression that we were not valued or important. We set out to highlight these issues with firms across England and Wales with the hope of improving the experience for home movers when they engage with conveyancers.

Over the years, we have managed to identify numerous firms that excel in their regions. They are not just good at getting files up and running, but they have proven time and time again to be the strongest links in the chain, the most proactive firms, the embracers of technologies whilst delivering a 5-Star customer service.

Knowing just how difficult it is for anyone outside of the industry to know for certain how reliable a firm really is, we set out to make the route to the best conveyancers much simpler with 'Instruct A Conveyancer'.

We believe that home movers should be entitled to know exactly what they need to budget for legal representation. As such, the estimates that we deliver for our firms are transparent and comprehensive and we only represent firms that have proven to be the best in their region.

### **Selling and Buying Guide**

#### Sale

#### **Purchase**

#### Confirm your wish to proceed

Having received a breakdown of the costs for your transaction, click the link to accept and proceed. You will be asked to complete a quick form to collect the names and contact information of anyone involved in the move, along with the address details for the property or properties involved.

#### **Opening a File**

You will receive an instruction pack from the law firm containing their Engagement Letters and Terms of Business along with other forms that you will need to complete as soon as possible. Remember, the firm is NOT instructed until such time as they receive your completed paperwork.

#### Identification and Money Laundering

All law firms have to comply with Money Laundering Legislation to verify your identity and the source of any funds that will pass through their clients account. This is a quick process that is invariably completed remotely through an App on a smartphone. Once you have been verified, firms will ask for money on account.

#### Memorandum of Sale

This is a document distributed by the Selling Estate Agent that outlines the details of the sale / purchase, the properties, people and conveyancers / solicitors that will be involved on either side of the transaction. It should also contains a chain sheet so that the legal firms can identify other parties to liaise with.

#### **Sending out a Contract Pack**

Your conveyancers will send out a draft contract to the buyer's conveyancer containing the agreed price, details of the title and boundaries as well as copies of the paperwork that you were asked to complete at the start. If you are slow to complete your instruction paperwork, contracts will be delayed

#### **Receiving the Contract**

Your conveyancer will receive a draft contract pack from the seller's conveyancer containing information about the property title, the price, fixture and contents (what is to be left at the property) and material information about the property itself.

#### **Handling Enquiries**

Your buyer's conveyancer will have raised questions relating to the property and contract that need to be answered. Your help may be required.

Your Mortgage

Your conveyancer will have asked for information about any mortgage that you have on your property as they will need to ensure that it is paid off at completion.

#### **Getting Searches Underway**

As soon as a draft contract and title information has been received your conveyancer will order searches

#### **Raising Enquiries**

Your conveyancer may have questions for the seller regarding the contents of the draft contract as well as the results of the searches

#### **Be Patient**

There will come a time when it feels that everyone is just waiting for things to happen. A purchase transaction is much more complicated and we need to wait for them to be happy to proceed further. Your conveyancer cannot speed the other side up.

#### **Mortgage Offer**

Your conveyancer acts for your lender and will receive a copy of your mortgage offer which they will report to you on. You will be asked to sign and return a mortgage deed at this point.

### **Selling and Buying Guide**

#### Sale

#### **Pre-Exchange**

Your conveyancers will ask you to sign the contract so that they are authorised to Exchange contracts for you. They will also ensure that they are ready to satisfy the lender's requirements to redeem / pay off any outstanding funds from the proceeds of your sale.

### Purchase

#### **Pre-Exchange**

Your conveyancer will report to you on the Property Title, the results of the Searches, the contract and anything else that they feel you need to be aware of before committing to the purchase.

If you are happy to go ahead you will be asked to sign a copy of the contract ready to exchange. You will also be asked to put your deposit funds on account.

They also need to confirm that there is enough time to request your mortgage funds and any other funds in time for completion. You will also need to sign the Stamp Duty Land Tax Return.

#### **Exchange of Contracts**

When all parties are ready to legally commit to the transaction, an Exchange of Contracts can take place. As soon as contracts have exchanged, no one can withdraw from the transaction without significant financial consequences. When contracts exchange, the completion date (previously discussed and agreed moving date) is formally agreed and becomes legally binding as it is written in to the contract.

The Exchange of Contracts takes place by telephone between the legal representatives acting for either side. This is not something that you need to be present for.

#### **Transfer Deed**

Your conveyancer will send out to you a copy of the Transfer Deed which is the legal document that transfers ownership to the buyers. It must be signed and returned BEFORE completion date, so don't delay.

#### **Transfer Deed**

Depending on your specific purchase you may be sent a Transfer Deed to sign and return ahead of completion. You will also be asked to send any additional funds that are required to make up the full purchase price in order to complete.

#### **Completion Day**

This is the date that everyone has agreed to move on. The seller moves out of the property making sure to leave everything that they have mentioned in the Fixtures and Contents form. The property should be left clean and clear of any rubbish and vacant of any possessions not included in the transaction.

Money being paid for the property is transferred to the Seller's Conveyancer who will confirm receipt and allow the keys to be released to enable the buyers to move in.

#### **Post Completion**

Your conveyancer will redeem any finance outstanding with your mortgage lender and remove any charges registered against the property you have sold.

Your Estate Agency Fees and Legals fees will be paid from the Proceeds of Sale funds.

Any balance of funds after all debts have been satisfied are sent to you, unless they are being used for an onward purchase transaction.

#### **Post Completion**

Your conveyancer will pay your Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) and submit your SDLT return to HMRC.

They will apply to the Land Registry to register you as the new owner(s) of the property and inform them of any Mortgage Deeds to be noted on the Land Registry records. You will be informed when this is complete.

Their bill will be paid having collected funds from you for the purchase and their fees prior to completion

### Exceeding your Expectations

The firms that we recommend are highly respected in their field of expertise and consistently deliver a 5-Star service for both Sale and Purchase Transactions.

As a customer centric business ourselves, we want to make the process of engaging with high quality conveyancers local to home movers as simple and hassle free as possible.

We are passionate about giving people access to first class services to help improve the state of property transactions across England and Wales



O333 090 0360 firstcontact@instructaconveyancer.co.uk www.instructaconveyancer.co.uk

Excellent \*\*\*\*\*

Instruct A Conveyancer is brought to you by the respected firm Property Searches Direct Limited who consistently deliver a 5-Star service to conveyancers and home movers alike. It has become a trusted brand within the UK Property Sector