Insurance for Derby's

Professional Service Providers

Protecting your practice against claims of negligence

Produced by Mortgage & Finance Arena, Derby

Why this guide

If you're a solicitor, accountant, consultant or other professional adviser, the biggest risk to your business usually isn't a broken window, it's a claim that your advice or work fell short. This guide covers the cover that matters most for professional service providers working across Derby and Derbyshire.

Professional indemnity insurance

Professional indemnity, sometimes called errors and omissions insurance, covers claims that your advice, service or work caused a client financial loss, whether through an error, an omission, or alleged negligence. It typically covers legal defence costs as well as any settlement or judgment, which matters because defending even an unfounded claim can be expensive.

Many professional bodies require a minimum level of cover as a condition of membership or practising certificates, including:

- Solicitors, through the SRA's minimum terms and conditions
- Accountants, through bodies such as ICAEW or ACCA
- Financial advisers and consultants, often through client contracts rather than a regulator

What a typical claim looks like

Claims don't always involve dramatic mistakes. A missed deadline, a miscalculation, advice that turns out to be wrong given information the client didn't disclose, or a disagreement over the scope of what was agreed, all of these can lead to a claim. The value of the claim is usually tied to the client's financial loss, which for high-value transactions or advice can be significant relative to the fee you charged.

Worth knowing

Professional indemnity policies are usually written on a "claims made" basis, meaning the policy in place when a claim is made matters, not the policy that was in place when the work was done. If you stop trading or change insurer, ask about run-off cover so past work stays protected.

Beyond professional indemnity

Most professional service businesses also want:

- Public liability insurance, for visitors to your offices
- Employers' liability insurance, a legal requirement if you have staff
- Cyber insurance, given how much client data professional firms hold
- Key person protection, if the firm's reputation is closely tied to specific individuals

Working alone or in a small partnership

Sole practitioners and small partnerships sometimes assume their scale means lower risk, but claims are typically valued on the client's loss, not the size of the firm that caused it. It's worth reviewing your limit of indemnity against the size of the matters you actually handle, rather than what felt sufficient when the business started out.

Talk it through with us

We work with professional service firms across Derby and Derbyshire and compare cover across the market, including run-off and limit of indemnity questions that are easy to overlook until they matter.

Call our Derby team on 01332 300 300, or get in touch through the website, for a free, no-obligation chat.