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## INTRODUCTION

Without doubt, the legal system is complex and daunting and most people who go to court to either resolve disputes or to defend themselves when sued, will use a solicitor or barrister. Such professionals do not come cheaply. This fact, above all, can influence a person's decision whether or not to go to court.

More and more people are choosing to go down the route of Do-it-yourself representation. These people are known as litigants-in-person. More and more courts are sympathetic to self representation and judges will often help the litigant.

This book attempts to throw light on the whole legal process by adopting a specific approach towards explaining the processes involved. Chapter 1 deals with an outline of how the system works and who is who within the various courts. The purpose is to provide a backdrop which should prove invaluable to the litigant. Chapter 2 explains the role more fully of solicitors and barristers and also points to other sources of legal help available. Chapter 3 outlines the importance of finding a solution to problems before they get to court, as this avoids an often long and costly battle. Chapters 4 to 6 outline the processes within the various courts and puts forward case studies which should help the litigant in person gain an idea of the processes involved.

Overall, this brief but invaluable guide to conducting your own court case, presented through building blocks to the actual presentation of a case, should prove an indispensable aid to representing yourself in court.