Enforcement for the aviation industry





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The power of the High Court writ

At The Sheriffs Office we provide a full range of specialist and effective enforcement services for the aviation industry, including:

- Recovery of aircraft on behalf of the aircraft financier
- Recovery of engines at end of lease
- Seizure of aircraft as a high value asset to recover sums owed for creditors
- Seizure of aircraft on behalf of creditors with foreign judgments

The High Court writ authorises us to seize assets until the matter is resolved and it is a criminal offence for the defendant to remove or dispose of them.

We are one of the largest and most successful firms of authorised High Court Enforcement Officers (HCEOs) in the country, with a recovery rate which is consistently far in excess of the national average.

Recovery of aircraft and engines

If payment or contract terms have been breached or engines are not returned at the end of lease, the finance company may request the return of the aircraft or engines.

This will be carried out under a High Court writ of delivery, which instructs us, as authorised HCEOs, to take control of the asset to return it to the claimant detailed on the writ. If money is also owed, an order for money may be added to a writ of delivery, so that we can recover any debt at the same time and under the same writ.

Enforcing a money judgment

When a judgment for money has been obtained against an airline, this can be transferred up to the High Court for enforcement under a writ of control.

If the judgment is for a large amount, seizing and grounding an aircraft under the authority of the writ will, in the majority of cases, encourage payment.

If payment is not made within the set time period, the aircraft may be sold to pay the judgment debt. We undertake ownership and mortgage checks prior to enforcement to reduce the likelihood of a third party claim.

Enforcing foreign judgments

Where a judgment has been made in another country and the creditor knows that the aircraft will be in England or Wales for a certain period of time, the judgment may still be enforced by The Sheriffs Office using a European Enforcement Order or a reciprocal treaty.



0333 001 5100



Our expertise

We have an unequalled level of experience and expertise in aviation enforcement.

David Asker, director and authorised HCEO, leads our Aviation Team. He is a well-known and highly regarded specialist, frequently invited to speak at aviation events.

Our services for this specialist area of enforcement include:

Pre enforcement:

- Extensive sources of information on the location of aircraft
- Obtaining orders to waive the Notice of Enforcement
- Detailed planning, including engagement with the Civil Aviation Authority, Police, UK Border Agency, Foreign Office, as required

During enforcement:

- Complying with all legal and statutory requirements
- Securing all documentation and advising all appropriate authorities
- Arranging specialist insurance

Post enforcement:

- Storage and maintenance of seized aircraft
- Negotiating payment
- Arranging sale via a broker

Protective distraint for just £71

The court fee for the writ of control or delivery is just £71. Enforcement costs and court fees are added to the sum recoverable from the defendant. In the case of a claim for money, judgment interest may also be added to the sum recoverable.

Outstanding service

When you instruct us, your case will be overseen by David Asker, who will lead the planning and execution of the enforcement action. You will also be assigned a highly experienced Account Manager and provided with access to our secure online case management system.

We work hard to ensure that we give our clients outstanding service in addition to highly effective enforcement.

Our commitment to continuous improvement has been recognised with the winning of many industry awards, including Enforcement Team of the Year 2015 by the Chartered Institute of Credit Management.

To find out more or instruct us

Call us on 0333 001 5100 and ask to speak to our Aviation Team.

* All court fees are subject to change by the Ministry of Justice. Please check our website.

thesheriffsoffice.com/aviation

About The Sheriffs Office

We are a leading firm of authorised High Court Enforcement Officers (HCEO) and Certificated Enforcement Agents covering all of England and Wales.

It all started in the late 1970s as The Sheriffs Office in Northampton, dealing only with High Court writs within the county of Northamptonshire. With the Courts Act in 2004, Sheriffs Officers were renamed High Court Enforcement Officers and the restrictive geographical boundaries were dropped.

Since then The Sheriffs Office has gone from strength to strength, growing year on year to become one of the top four HCEO firms with significant market share.

Underpinning our success is our focus on client service and a comprehensive "end to end" range of specialist services for the recovery of debt, property and land.

A range of services for everyone

The Sheriffs Office provides the full range of High Court Enforcement and related services for individuals, sole traders, business of all sizes, landlords, commercial agents, local authorities and solicitors acting on behalf of clients.

Money judgments

- High Court enforcement
- Recovery of assets
- Debtor tracing
- European judgment
- Debt collection

Property and land

- Eviction
- Security
- Repossession
- Rent collection
- Equine impoundment

Award winning enforcement

The Sheriffs Office has won many prestigious industry awards, including Enforcement Team of The Year 2015 from the Chartered Institute of Credit Management, Legal and Enforcement Profession winner at the Credit Excellence Awards 2013 and Enforcement Team of the Year at the Credit Today awards 2012.

Supporting the environment

We participate in a Carbon Offsetting project run by Carbon Footprint Ltd which is planting trees in Kenya to support local communities in the Great Rift Valley, so as to reduce poverty and provide habitats for wildlife, including lions!

If you would like to find out more about our aviation enforcement services, please call us today on

0333 001 5100

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