

RVG LAW

**It Stands for
Really, Very Good.**

Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act 2009 (AML/CFT)

What a mouthful! If you've dealt with a bank or financial service provider since 2013 you will likely be aware of AML/CFT. Lawyers and their clients are now also captured by the requirements of AML as are accountants, and as at 1 January 2019 real estate agents will have to comply too.

We must assess the potential risk we face from money launderers, those financing terrorism, and identify possible suspicious activity. To make this assessment, we must obtain and verify certain information from our existing and new clients before we can carry out transactions for them. Under AML/CFT this is termed "client due diligence" or "CDD". Even if we have known you for a long time, we will need to do CDD on you.

What this means for you?

CDD requires that we conduct background checks before providing legal services including taking reasonable steps to ensure the information you provide is correct. The information we need to obtain from you is generally as follows:

- Your full name
- Your date of birth
- Your physical address

To confirm the details, we will need documents that include photo identification like a NZ driver's licence or passport and documents that show your address, such as a bank account statement or utility bill.

Where we are providing services to a trust or company things get a bit more complicated. We need to obtain information relating to the trust or company as well as the people associated with it (such as directors, shareholders, trustees and beneficiaries). Where it is possible, we will identify those persons we need the details about but we will also need your assistance to help identify all the persons we need to carry out CDD.

For a trust we will need to ask for information about the source of the trust's funds and wealth for a transaction. In this instance, we may require a set of financial accounts or bank statements to satisfy our legal requirements.

We need this information from you so that we can comply with the legal requirements and enable us to keep providing you with really very good legal advice. We know it may seem like a hassle but it has to be done. Please call us if you are unsure of the information required to be provided.

