



Professional
Deputies

**MANAGING THE PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS OF VULNERABLE ADULTS**

ACTING AS YOUR ATTORNEY





WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE

The administration of one's financial affairs is never easy and becomes more complex as we become older and our needs change. Wealth planning, state benefit entitlement, care fee costs, wills, long term care funding, powers of attorney - the list goes on and on. Few individuals have experience of such matters, yet are often required to provide support to family members, friends and relatives, often with little or no notice. This can be further complicated when an individual requires personal care, and their mental capacity starts to diminish.

WHO ARE WE?

At Professional Deputies we have built a dedicated team of professionals from both the private and public sectors, enabling us to offer assistance and expert guidance in addressing these issues, allowing family and friends to concentrate on caring for their loved one, knowing that their financial affairs are in safe hands. With a wealth of experience in the field, we are able to provide an all-round money management system for people that are unable to manage their own finances due to mental incapacity.



WHAT DO WE DO?

Professional Deputies manage the property and financial affairs of adults who are deemed mentally incapable of doing this themselves, and have no family or friends that could or want to assist them with this vital day-to-day task. These adults are some of the most vulnerable members of society, and safeguarding their assets is at the heart of what we do. By working with the individual's support network, we are able to concentrate fully on our main responsibility - administering our client's funds and assets. Assisting families with Court of Protection applications also forms a large part of our work.



REGULATORY, INSURANCE & PRINCIPLES

All of our court appointments are authorised by the Court of Protection and regulated by the Office of the Public Guardian, which ensures the actions we take on behalf of our clients are transparent, fully compliant with the Mental Capacity Act and subject to independent review. Professional Deputies is under-written for £3,000,000 of Professional Indemnity Insurance. In addition security bonds are also taken out for every Court of Protection client whose affairs we manage. We are also required to submit an annual report to the Office of the Public Guardian for all of our Court of Protection clients, accounting for how we have managed our clients' financial affairs throughout the year. Lastly an assurance visit is conducted annually by the Office of the Public Guardian where they visit a selection of our clients, whilst also physically visiting our offices.

We believe in openness and full accountability, and have based our business on four sound principles:

- Do what you say you are going to do
- Finish what you start
- Treat others how you would like to be treated
- Always say 'please' and 'thank you'



THERE MAY COME A TIME AT A POINT IN THE FUTURE WHERE YOUR ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS MAY DIMINISH DUE TO ILL HEALTH (BOTH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL), AND WANT TO PUT SOMETHING IN PLACE NOW TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST THIS.

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) allows an individual to appoint someone to make decisions (either about Property & Financial Affairs or Health & Welfare) on their behalf, if and when they are unable to make such decisions for themselves at a future point in time, due to loss of mental capacity.

If you have not appointed such a person to act for you as your attorney, and you were to lose mental capacity the only option you would be left with is for someone to apply to the Court of Protection (CoP) to become your deputy which can be an expensive and lengthy process. However more importantly in this scenario, the person chosen to manage your affairs may not be the person who you would wish or even know. This person is decided by the CoP.

There are two different types of LPA's:

HEALTH & WELFARE

A Health & Welfare LPA allows you to choose one or more people to make decisions for things such as medical treatment, where you would like to reside, dietary requirements etc. A Health & Welfare LPA can only be used if you lack the ability to make decisions for yourself.

PROPERTY & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

A Property & Financial Affairs LPA lets you choose one or more people to make property and financial affairs decisions for you. This could include decisions about paying bills, selling your home, managing investments etc. You can appoint someone as an attorney to look after your property and financial affairs at any time. You can also include a condition that means the attorney can only make decisions when you lose the ability to do so yourself.

Professional Deputies can act as your professional attorney (for both Property & Financial Affairs and Health & Welfare) if you feel you have no one else suitable to take on this role. Common scenarios where we are asked to act as a professional attorney for clients may include:

1. No one else suitable eg. widow/widower, no family or friends
2. Warring families where an agreement cannot be reached between the family as to whom should act
3. Acting alongside a lay attorney (family member/friend) to offer professional assistance or as a safeguard if anything was to happen to the lay attorney

Professional Deputies can also act as a replacement attorney for you. This is most common when a couple have appointed each other as their respective attorneys', and want the security of having a replacement attorney in place if anything were to happen to the other attorney.

WE WORK WITH LAW FIRMS, WILL WRITERS AND ESTATE PLANNERS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, CHARITIES, CARE PROVIDERS, THE NHS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO NAME A FEW, WHILST OUR CLIENTS WILL GENERALLY COME FROM ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLIENT GROUPS: ELDERLY, LEARNING DISABILITIES, MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND PHYSICAL & SENSORY DISABILITIES.



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You can also keep up to date with what is happening at Professional Deputies, by following us on LinkedIn at:
www.linkedin.com/company/professional-deputies



Andy Riddle, the owner of Professional Deputies, also owns and manages the main group on LinkedIn when it comes to managing vulnerable clients' financial affairs – Managing the Financial & Legal Affairs of Vulnerable Adults. If this is of interest please visit:
www.linkedin.com/groups/4034445/profile

**CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE
CONSULTATION
020 3011 5586/5587**

We provide a free consultation in order to fully understand your requirements, and ensure we can offer appropriate assistance.