

# DEPUTYSHIP

## LAY DEPUTY SUPPORT

Where the client has received a smaller award of compensation or where their financial position does not justify the additional costs involved in appointing a professional Deputy then the best course of action may well be for a family member to be appointed as a Deputy.

If you are approached to be a lay Deputy then you should consider this request very carefully. This can sometimes be a daunting and onerous task and occasionally the Deputy can be met with unreasonable demands for expenditure. This is not always easy to deal with, especially when the request is being made by a loved one. If the need for a Deputy arises as a result of a personal injury then the family can often be exhausted following years of care and the demands of the litigation process.

A lay Deputy will still be accountable to the Court and will still need to provide all of the services of a professional Deputy. They will also need to act in the best interests of the client. Even though you are not a professional a lay Deputy will be accountable if they act outside of their responsibilities. In some cases this could result in the Court of Protection taking action against the Deputy.

To keep costs down a lay Deputy may choose to deal with most of the administration and annual reporting themselves but can employ the services of a solicitor, financial advisor and accountant as and when needed.

The lay Deputy cannot delegate decision making to others (even solicitors). It is the lay Deputy's duty to comply with the Court order appointing them. They are however entitled to seek advice and assistance from others to help them in their role.

Our team is able to offer whatever support and assistance a lay Deputy may require to help them in their role. That assistance may simply be ad hoc advice on specific matters; it may be assistance with filing annual reports, making statutory Wills or making applications to the Court. It may also be making an application for a professional Deputy to be appointed in place of the lay Deputy.



**CONTACT US – 0800 044 8488**