

hyphen<sup>+</sup>law

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**Services for solicitors**

# Services for Solicitors

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Deputyships and Personal Injury Trusts are our key focus at Hyphen Law. It's all that we do. We have the experience, expertise and empathy to support our clients and their professional teams.

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Why might you need Deputyship or Trustee services?

Claiming compensation for catastrophic injury can be highly complex and challenging. It often requires input from a wide number of professionals, each providing specialist knowledge and experience to assist the injured party and the progress of their personal injury litigation. For those with a brain injury or mental illness which has left them unable to manage some or all aspects of their financial affairs, the appointment of a Court of Protection Deputy will be an essential requirement of their journey through rehabilitation and beyond.

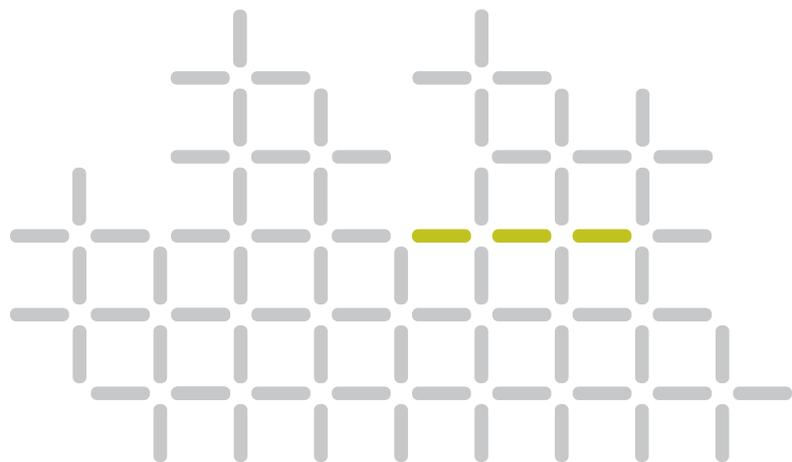
If your client has capacity to manage their finances but remains vulnerable, the management of a damages award through a Personal Injury Trust can provide security and protection. It may also preserve your client's entitlement to statutory funding and state benefits which might otherwise be lost.

Historically, awards for children have been held within the Court Funds Office until the child reaches their majority. Low rates of interest at the Court Funds Office may mean that it's possible to achieve greater investment returns by placing the funds elsewhere. The funds will also be more accessible. A carefully drafted Personal Injury Trust, which incorporates annual reporting conditions, may provide the Court with sufficient assurance to allow for more diverse forms of investment. A wider choice of investment options will maximise the award you have worked hard to obtain.

Why seek assistance from a specialist professional Deputy or Trustee?

Acting as a Court of Protection Deputy or a Trustee of a Personal Injury Trust can be challenging, especially if you are managing the often intricate issues of your client's personal injury litigation. Separating the progression of a claim from the obligations which come from acting as a Deputy or Trustee allows you to focus your time and energy on the litigation.

Experience has shown that family or friends, who take on the role of Deputy or Trustee, in complex litigation, can be overwhelmed by the responsibility. They can struggle to cope with the emotional and financial conflicts of these roles, especially when trying to remain a loving partner, parent, sibling or friend. The challenge of managing a substantial sum of money can often come at a time when there are also complex family circumstances to deal with including the provision of day to day care. Financial matters can quickly go wrong when the care of a loved one needs to take priority.



# Why Hyphen Law?

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Hyphen Law is a specialist firm dealing exclusively with Deputyships and Personal Injury Trusts; we are here to help you and your clients.

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## Why Hyphen Law?

Property and Affairs Deputyship and Personal Injury Trusts are our key focus; it's all that we do. This means that we can really help in a way that enables you to continue with what you do best.

If Deputyship and Personal Injury Trusts are not your specialism, then the particular challenges of the work can be time consuming and problematic. We can take away that burden. We are highly experienced with the knowledge, perspective and empathy to make the lives of you and your clients easier.

## How can Hyphen Law help you and your client?

We can provide a professional Deputy to act alone, or jointly with someone else, and we can also provide professional Trustees.

We can initiate an application to the Court of Protection for the appointment of a Deputy and we can draft Personal Injury Trusts.

Once the Deputy is appointed or the Trust created, our experienced lawyers and the Case Management assistants who support them can deal with all the responsibilities which come with these roles. This may include:

### For Deputies:

- Completion and submission of the annual account to the Office of the Public Guardian.
- Ensuring compliance with the ongoing requirements of the Court of Protection which may include:>
- Updating the Court when interim payments are received.
- Ensuring funds are used for the purpose that the Court has directed.
- Requesting updated directions from the Court when required.

- Arranging enhanced levels of cover through the security bond.
- Preparing applications to the Court during the life of your client including an application for approval of a Statutory Will or prenuptial or cohabitation agreements.

### For Trustees

- Preparing annual trust accounts as well as trustee resolutions and minutes.
- Filing a copy of the annual trust account with the supervising Court during a child's minority.

### For Trustees and Deputies

- Running your client's day-to-day finances and making sure their bills are paid on time. This could range from setting up a regular payment to meet a utility bill, booking and paying for a holiday as well as managing daily, and sometimes more frequent, demands from your client for day-to-day funds.
- Sourcing and purchasing property to meet your client's needs and then facilitating adaptations
- Directly employing support staff and taking responsibility for issues arising out of that employment.
- Liaising with specialist pension providers in relation to auto enrolment.
- Purchasing specialist equipment.
- Ensuring your client receives all the benefits to which they are entitled.
- Arranging appropriate insurance, whether it be public liability insurance for a wheelchair user or specialist cover for unoccupied property. Dealing with appropriate disclosures and renewals to ensure that insurance cover remains valid, relevant and competitive.
- Overseeing the completion of annual tax returns.
- Seeking and acting upon appropriate investment advice.
- Ensuring funds are properly applied and budgets remain on track.

# How can we help?

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We will give you more time to devote your litigation skills towards securing the best possible result for your client. We are the perfect addition to your legal team.

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How can Hyphen Law help you in your role as a litigation solicitor?

In taking responsibility for these matters, and often many more, we will give you more time to devote your litigation skills towards securing the best possible result for your client. We can also provide you with:

- Predictive budgeting to assist with interim payment requests.
- Regular updates on the management of interim payments.
- Our financial records so that you can make interim payment requests in a timely way.
- Accurate and detailed records of expenditure with supporting documents. We do this in a way which is tailored to your needs and designed to assist you in the preparation of your schedule.

Future cost estimates for Deputyships and Personal Injury Trusts

Your firm may have its own private client department which is well placed to provide the specialist advice that is needed in relation to Court of Protection and Trustee matters for clients who have experienced a catastrophic injury.

You may, however, find it necessary to produce independent cost projections for the running of a Deputyship or a Personal Injury Trust. We are happy to assist you in this process and attend Court if required to do so.

Our Values and Client Care

We have a strong reputation in client care and will always:

- Put clients first and act in their best interests.
- Treat all clients fairly and not discriminate against anyone because of his or her race, sex, sexual orientation or disability.
- Explain things clearly, keeping jargon to a minimum.
- Make sure clients and others know who to contact if they need help from their dedicated team.
- Provide direct dial telephone numbers and email address so that you can get in touch when you need our assistance.
- Answer telephone calls as they are received. If the person you need to speak to is unavailable they will return your call as soon as possible.
- Make sure that you know who you can talk to if your main contact is away from the office.
- Respond to emails and letters as soon as possible - we believe that each email or letter requires a different level of consideration and would rather reply properly than meet a service standard by simply sending an acknowledgment. We will, however, ensure that all correspondence is dealt with appropriately and within a reasonable period of time.
- Keep information confidential.

