



**Specialist
Court of Protection
and Vulnerable
Client
Law Firm**



**In partnership with
Local Authorities**

Why work with JE Bennett Law?

BENEFITS TO YOUR CLIENT

Many law firms cover the practice areas associated with vulnerable clients, but just a few make it their only focus. We are specialists and industry-recognised as leaders in our field.

Dealing with the legal needs of a vulnerable client requires a unique skill-set, not just the necessary legal expertise, but the ability to manage the expectations of the different parties involved in a sensitive and understanding manner. The team at JE Bennett Law recognise our clients and their families are often facing difficult decisions in emotionally challenging circumstances. It's our mission to support them every step of the way.

We work for the vulnerable themselves and the family of those who may lack mental capacity, or be in the process of losing the ability to manage their property and affairs.

We can assist in cases where you may not have the time, resource or expertise available to deliver the optimal service for your client.



Advice and guidance were always given with both empathy and professionalism.



Mr P, Lay Deputy





We have found JE Bennett Law to be helpful, reliable and flexible.



James Sheedy,
Royal Borough
of Kensington
and Chelsea

BENEFITS TO LAs

The JE Bennett Law team understand the specific needs of both Local Authorities and their clients. We are highly experienced making applications for the appointment of a deputy and managing deputyships. We deliver an efficient, reliable and caring service.

- We always act promptly to make applications to the court.
- There is no additional cost to the authority from instructing JE Bennett Law.
- For Court of Protection work, we follow the Solicitors Guidelines hourly rates. Based in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, we are National Tier 1 so the rates are significantly lower than London firms.
- We can offer additional, related vulnerable client services... such as wills and lasting powers of attorney... at special local authority rates.
- We have a dedicated Local Authority team.

DEPUTYSHIP FAQs

Can you apply for appointment as Appointee whilst awaiting the Deputy Order?

Yes, we can start working on the case and with the client straight away.

Can you deal with the admin and paperwork on cases that involve a property?

Yes. When taking on property cases we will deal with the responsibility of securing the property and contents, insurance, property checks and searches, saving you time and money.

Do you take on new deputyship cases and take over existing ones?

Yes, we are happy to do both.

On instruction, will you liaise with third parties for information and can you arrange for COP3?

Yes - after instruction we can obtain information from the LA, speak to third parties or search a property, as directed. We can arrange for a COP3 (Assessment of Capacity) to be completed, if the LA is unable to. Note: this may require additional time/expense.

THE JE BENNETT LAW LOCAL AUTHORITY REFERRAL PROCESS

We understand the time pressures facing local authority teams and our referral process has been fine-tuned over a number of years to deliver as fast a turnaround as possible with the minimum level of stress.

	AUTHORITY ROLE	JE BENNETT LAW ROLE
REFERRAL INITIATION	Complete Referral Form and COP 3 assessment	Our referral form has been tailored and refined for Local Authority cases
ARE THERE ISSUES YOU CONSIDER URGENT ON THE CASE?	Authority indicates urgency of case	We will immediately apply for appointment of an interim deputy or an interim order to address the identified urgent issues - such as release of funds for property repairs or urgent purchases for the person requiring deputyship
LEGAL ASSESSMENT OF URGENT ISSUES		We will advise you of any additional urgent issues and the required approach to reach the best outcome for the client
INSTRUCTING THE MCF		We instruct Money Carer Foundation (MCF) to obtain appointeeship pending our appointment as deputy to enable the person requiring deputyship to have access to funds for everyday needs.
ONGOING APPOINTMENT PROCESS		We regularly contact the Court to check on progress and report to the local authority and other interested parties as appropriate.
ON JE BENNETT LAW APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will use MCF's first funds service to obtain access to funds if they are required urgently - this can be done within 7 working days of MCF being instructed. 2. Update all financial organisations re our appointment
WAS THE LOCAL AUTHORITY THE PREVIOUS DEPUTY?	Liaising to ensure smooth handover	In cases where we are taking over from an existing local authority deputy we work in conjunction with them for a smooth transition.
DOES THE CLIENT REQUIRE A WILL?		We will undertake searches and take whatever steps necessary to get this put in place if appropriate.
ONGOING CLIENT MANAGEMENT		As a specialist and industry ranked Court of Protection legal firm, you can rest assured your client is in the best possible hands



... a very strong practice that deals with these matters in a sensitive and efficient way.



OUR EXPERTISE

The team at JE Bennett Law consists of 25 specialists, each bringing relevant skills and experience to serve our clients' needs.

Managing partner Jane Bennett and senior partner Ian Macara are members (2 of only around 60 nationwide) of the Office of the Public Guardian's national panel of professional deputies.

Our local authority team is made up of highly experienced partners and support team all with many years experience of handling Local Authority referrals.

We have many years' experience of working with Local Authorities, across the country, specialising in professional deputyship services and assisting with powers of attorney, wills (including statutory wills) and estate administration.

LEADERS IN OUR FIELD

JE Bennett Law is rated as a Leading Firm by The Legal 500, the leading industry standard. The firm features in the rankings for Court of Protection. Individually, our Senior Partner, Jane Bennett is in the Legal 500 Hall of Fame and several other partners are also ranked. Jane is individually ranked in the esteemed Chambers ratings.



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PROVEN TRACK RECORD

JE Bennett Law has a proven track record and currently manage well in excess of 200 deputyships. A significant proportion of which have come from our local authority relationships.

In addition to our Local Authority referrals, we are trusted to handle highly complex cases from industry-leading insurers and investment organisations, other law firms, case managers and the Court of Protection itself. We're also in demand for expert witness services.

The firm is often selected and recommended by Leading Counsel and others in their field.

EXPERT WITNESS SERVICE

Managing Partner, Jane Bennett acts as an expert witness in catastrophic high value claims for a range of leading claimant and defendant law firms across England and Wales.

Typically, this pertains to the role of a professional property and affairs deputy under the Court of Protection. Expert opinion is given on issues such as costs; health and welfare; best interests and safeguarding.



CLIENT CARE & PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

We are proud to have been awarded Lexcel accreditation. Lexcel is the Law Society's legal practice quality mark for practice management and client care.



OUR PRACTICE AREAS

Court of Protection
Professional Deputyships
Personal Injury Trusts
Elderly Client Law
Community Care Law
Lasting Power of Attorney
Wills
Probate



Our core specialism is the provision of truly independent professional deputyship services under the Court of Protection, and advice to lay deputies, together with professional trustee services (both within and outside the Court of Protection).

We advise on all possible types of applications to the Court of Protection, including matters regarding gifts and transfers; the impact and implications of lack of capacity regarding other types of legal proceedings; Wills, including tax-efficient Wills; Wills catering for disabled beneficiaries; Statutory Wills for those who lack mental capacity to make a Will; Probate, and the whole gamut of elderly client law, including powers of attorney; Advance Directives (or the so-called living Wills), and access to local care in the community services via the NHS and the Local Authority.



JANE BENNETT
Managing Partner



JE Bennett Law

Our Local Authority Team



Richard Shearing
Senior Partner



Amy Paxton
Partner



Alexandra Edwards
Partner



Ian Macara
Senior Partner

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