



Nicola Fisher, Associate Solicitor

Nicola work in our private client department. She advises clients on all aspects of personal affairs and future planning such as wills, probate and lasting powers of attorney.

Our 'cuppa with' series is an informal chat with one of our team to give a deeper understanding into their area of law and share some little-known legal facts!

1. Tell us about your job

I advise clients about preparing wills and lasting powers of attorney, dealing with estates after someone has passed away and advising about long term care planning. I see a diverse mix of clients both in the office, at home visits and in care homes and each client's set of circumstances is always different and interesting.

2. What is the best part of your job?

I really like to be able to help clients get their affairs in order so that they have peace of mind that their wishes are documented and everything is as straight forward as possible for those dealing with their affairs. It's genuinely a pleasure to be able to help people during difficult times and take a weight off their shoulders. Usually after just one appointment a client feels reassured and relief to have sought help.

3. What is an LPA?

A Lasting Power of Attorney appoints someone to make decisions for you if you are unable to do so. There are two different types, one for property & financial affairs and one for health and welfare. You can enter into one of them, or both.

4. Does everyone need a LPA and why?

Yes, it is absolutely a good idea to enter into LPAs should it be required in the future. It is a common misconception that spouses do not need LPAs to deal with each other's affairs, however entering into LPAs is the only way to ensure there are no difficulties in managing your affairs should you become unwell and unable to do so in the future. It is a good idea to enter into LPAs while you are in good health and have capacity, otherwise the process becomes complicated and costly and can take considerable time.

5. LPAs in the news...

Recently, Kate Garraway of Good Morning Britain, has been in the news after dealing with a very difficult situation. Her husband went through a long battle with COVID-19 and unfortunately, they didn't have LPAs in place. That meant that Kate couldn't access funds to pay for his care, she couldn't re-mortgage their property and she didn't have the legal right to see his medical notes. The only way this could have been prevented would be if LPAs were in place and Kate has been very open about the fact that they had discussed LPAs and they deeply regret not putting them in place. Again, showing the importance of everyone needing an LPA.

If you would like to speak with Nicola or one of the wills and probate team, give us a call on

0191 243 8167 or visit www.davidgray.co.uk