Clare Nichols

Solicitor

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Clare Nichols is a Solicitor within the Private Client department and advises on all aspects of Private Client law.

Clare joined Gepp having previously studied psychology at Durham University and subsequently establishing a career within the medical information field. Opting for a change of career, Clare joined Gepp Solicitors and undertook a Graduate Diploma in Law whilst working as a Paralegal.

Clare completed the Legal Practice Course in June 2024 achieving a distinction and was admitted as a solicitor in September 2024.

Clare delivers straightforward advice in an approach able manner, understanding that each client has a unique set of circumstances. Clare prides herself on creating an environment where clients feel comfort able and able to discuss personal matters openly.

Expertise

Wills

Clare has experience in drafting a range Wills including:

- Simple Wills
- Care Fee Protection Wills
- Discretionary Trust Wills

Clare also provides advice in relation toInheritance tax planning, ensuring that the most appropriate Will is selected to make best use of the inheritance tax allowances available.

GEPP Solicitors

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Declaration of Trust

Whether you're buying a property with a partner and contributing unequal amounts or just looking to formally confirm the shares of the property you each hold, a Declaration of Trust isa sensible way of protecting one of the largest investments you will ever make. Clare advises on the suitability of Declarations of Trust for a range of circumstances.

Probate

When a loved one passes away it can be an incredibly stressful and emotional time. While some find that getting stuck into paperwork and 'getting things done' can be a helpful part of the process, others prefer to be relieved of the pressure of having to think about legal matters and would prefer to pass this responsibility to a professional.

Clare is experienced in dealing with a range of Probate matters, including:

- Simple estates
- Taxable estates
- Estates with foreign assets
- Intestate estates
- Re-seal of foreign Grants of Probate

Lasting Powers of Attorney , Deputyships and Court of Protection

Clare assists in the preparation of Property & Financial and Personal Welfare deputyship applications via the Court of Protection.By discussing the requirements for both applications, Clare will advise you from the outset of the strength of your application and work with you to ensure the application is as strong as possible to give you the best chance of success.

Clare also prepares Lasting Powers of Attorney and can assist with the registration of Enduring Powers of Attorney. Clare regularly works with a number of third-parties to assist in obtaining mental capacity assessments should the need for a private capacity assessment arise.

Case studies

- A client came to me looking for a reseal for a Ghanian Grant of Probate to enable them to deal with the UK assets held within the estate. We applied to the Probate Registry in the UK and were successful in obtaining a re-seal for the Grant of Probate to enable them to deal with theUK assets
- A client came to me having always looked after the personal welfare needs of her son who had Autism Spectrum Disorder. When the son turned 18, the mother was no longer able to advocate for her son in the way that she had previously and so she came to us to assist her in obtaining a personal welfare Deputyship order. We worked with our client to prepare a strong evidential case to support the application and were successful in obtaining the order.
- A client's father passed away just before the sale of their property was about to go through. This client came to us worried that the sale would fall through.We managed to expedite a Grant of Probate application for this client to enable the sale to go through without issue.

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