Lucinda Leeming

YEAR OF CALL 1999

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Special Education Needs, Court of Protection



Court of Protection CV

Lucy provides advice and representation in matters concerning:-

- Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the relevant Codes of Practice, assessments of incapacity and Best Interests decision making for incapacitated persons;
- Deprivation of Liberty; (DoLS)
- Mental Health Act 1983 and 2007 including nearest relative disputes;
- Detention and restraint;
- Sexual relations and capacity to consent to.

Lucy travels widely in order to service this work. She is, of course, happy to draft Position Statements and to conduct Advocates' Meetings and Round Table Meetings which 9 St John Street is happy to host in Manchester where appropriate.

Lucy has experience in proceedings relating to the welfare and best interests of vulnerable people in the Court of Protection and is keen to develop her practice further. She acts on behalf of their families and those who care for them including Local Authorities, private individuals, medical professionals and NHS trusts.

Lucy came to chambers in 1999 as a specialist criminal practitioner acting for both prosecution and defence in matters of the most serious and sensitive nature. Following a period of maternity leave, she returned to chambers entering the field of personal injury. She now appears throughout the county on behalf of both claimants and defendants. At this stage in her career, Lucy now wishes to focus on fostering a practice which allows her to use her skills and experience to assist the Court in reaching decisions which protect the most vulnerable in society.

Whilst Lucy is widely recognised as a skilled and highly effective advocate, it is her mix of intellect and compassion which makes her well suited to Court of Protection work. Drawing from her expertise in disciplines including criminal law and inquest work Lucy is adept at challenging in a non-confrontational way. In addition, she is quickly able to establish a good rapport with Judges giving both clients and court confidence.

Lucy is joint head of the Court of Protection team in chambers and has been instrumental in the development of the Court of Protection Team in chambers. Given this is a developing area of law with limited experience within chambers, it is required that all members of the 9 St John Street Court of Protection team undergo specialist training before being

eligible for work. Lucy has undertaken extensive training in Court of Protection work (Health and Welfare) including the 2 day course in mental capacity law and procedure required for The Law Society s mental capacity (welfare) accreditation scheme. Lucy is a regular attendee at national COP conferences.

Lucy firmly believes that counsel should offer their instructing solicitors an "open door" relationship so that matters are discussed thoroughly at an early stage in order that issues are anticipated and prepared for. Her approachable manner means that her instructing solicitors are assured of an excellent service and know they and those who represent can discuss any aspect of the case without hesitation or apprehension.