



Legal Assistant Job Description

Job Title: Legal Assistant / Paralegal

Responsible to: Head of Private Client Department

Hours: Full Time

This is an exciting opportunity to excel in a client facing and administratively intensive role within a firm that actively strives to be the best in the industry and is committed to the development of its people. Having experience of Court of Protection is essential and if the candidate has also had exposure to working in a family department drafting divorce applications, witness statements and child arrangements applications that would be a perfect mix for this role, that could also have some Family Team responsibility.

Summary of role

Assisting the Court of Protection and Elderly Client Team (fee earners) with the preparation and completion of Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Court of Protection applications and management of financial affairs, (the Administration of Estates), ensuring the quality and consistency of client care and file management (with the possibility of also assisting the family team).

The candidate (Legal Assistant) will have experience and take an active interest in and obtain a thorough understanding of all aspects of client requirements to provide exceptional service levels to both the Solicitors and clients.

In line with policies and procedures, key responsibilities include:

- Accurate time recording of chargeable hours, documenting work in file notes and attendance notes
- Financial management of clients' affairs after Court Order
- An understanding of mental capacity and how it relates specifically to Wills, LPAs and Court of Protection
- Drafting different Will structures and also different types of LPAs and supporting solicitors in meetings and with the client relationship generally
- Responsibility for keeping a central record of matters where the partners in TW are either Executors or Attorneys and ensuring that is reviewed and updated regularly
- Having empathy and patience in assisting clients with anything



- Ability to work and communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals
- Ability to manage workload and prioritising and reprioritising when urgent issues arise
- Releasing original documents to clients on their request in line with the firm's procedures
- Drafting occasional letters and chasing fee earners for review of documents.
- General assistance with matters as and when required

Other duties and responsibilities

In addition to providing support to the fee-earners to whom they offer services, a Legal Assistant will also provide assistance to their immediate colleagues in the department and, where practical, other departments.

Team duties will therefore include:

- Assisting others in the department whenever there is spare capacity or it is evident that a colleague needs assistance with their workload
- Picking up telephone calls for other members of the department when they are away from their desk or in meetings
- Participating in a lunch time telephone rota within the Legal Assistant team
- Assisting other members of the department, both pro-actively and at the request of the Team Leader
- Working effectively with other legal and support departments as required
- Any other duties as reasonably requested by the Solicitors or Team Leader, or a person of an appropriate seniority.

Person Specification

A Legal Assistant has responsibility to ensure that their skill set is up to date and they are familiar with the firm's departments, key personnel, clients, internal systems and procedures. This will ensure that the Legal Assistant is able to carry out his or her role effectively and, where appropriate, discuss any training requirements with the Team Leader.

In addition to this, they should have:

- Secretarial/Legal Assistant experience within Private Client, ideally Court of Protection
- Accurate typing speed of at least 60 words per minute
- Advanced knowledge of Microsoft Word, Outlook, Excel, research tools and other systems implemented by the firm
- Excellent communication, organisational and team skills
- Experience of building and maintaining internal and external client relationships
- Organised and able to prioritise workloads
- Accurate and with keen attention to detail
- Takes the initiative
- Able to remain calm under pressure and work to tight deadlines
- Have a positive approach to daily tasks and have a solution focussed working method



Personal attributes required in line with the firm's core competencies

The firm has a comprehensive set of core competencies that represent the behaviours we require from all staff within the firm. Incorporated within this framework are our core values of

- Honesty and integrity
- Open to change
- Pursuit of excellence
- Support of others

The core values are central to the ethics of our firm and must be displayed to the highest level at all times. The individual core competencies for this role are aligned to those expected of a Paralegal in the core competency framework.

Hours

Normal working hours are 9am to 5.30pm. Staff will be expected to be flexible and to arrive earlier and stay later when the job or business requires. There may be an opportunity to work alternative hours upon request, dependant upon this meeting with the business needs. **We are operating a hybrid way of working and so there is flexibility to work from home up to 3 days per week once training and induction is completed.**