

# Inquest advice and representation for care providers

Care is an inherently challenging area to work in. As a social care provider you may well become involved in inquest proceedings following the death of a service user.

We aim to support you through the difficult times. Our specialist sector knowledge means we are well equipped to offer holistic advice beyond the immediate inquest hearing including issues relating to safeguarding, CQC/CIW notifications, and related media coverage.

Understandably, inquests can be very daunting for you and your team, particularly where staff are called to give evidence in the hearing.

Issues are commonly raised which are potentially harmful to the reputation of your service. These issues require careful handling. You and your team will need guidance and reassurance, as well as clear legal advice.

We can offer expert support and pragmatic advice on all aspects of the inquest process whether you would like preliminary guidance on a specific issue or full legal representation at a hearing.

## These are examples of typical ways we help care providers:

- advising on requests for disclosure of evidence
- preparation of witness statement evidence
- attending any pre-inquest review hearings to make preparations for the inquest hearing
- offering guidance and support to you and your staff throughout the inquest process, which can otherwise be an unnerving and complex process
- reviewing internal investigations and devising action plans and recommendations
- advising witnesses in relation to attending an inquest
- representation in the inquest hearing itself; advocacy in court, making submissions on your behalf, questioning witnesses
- advising on Coroner's Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) reports and making counter arguments to resist them being drafted, or to advise you on the reply to such a report.
- advising on any related reports/inspections, e.g. CQC/CIW.
- guidance on dealing with the media.



"My team and I found the advice we received about coroner's inquests extremely useful and helped us to prepare for the day...The advice was a good investment and helped to show that as employers we support our staff."

**Dan Seale, Courtlands Care Home**



"Ali Cloak was absolutely fantastic: incredibly supportive and kind. Her advice was spot on."

**RWK Goodman client**



"[Ali] is precise and analytical and offers firm, well-rounded advice."

**RWK Goodman client**

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