

Shacklocks

Solicitors & Investment Advisors

PRESS RELEASE

Are Your Elderly Relatives Being Ripped Off? *Law firm has saved local families more than £97,000*

Derbyshire-based Shacklocks Solicitors is urging people across the region with elderly relatives to look into their care home fees more closely.

The law firm claims it has helped clients to claim back more than £97,000 in overpaid care fees, and is concerned how many more people might be paying too much on care home fees without realising it.

Care fees can be anything between £300 to £1,000 per week and are expected to continue to rise, making the average cost of nursing care to be around £32,000 per year.

Clare McShane a solicitor at Shacklocks said:

“With 70,000 people in the UK expected to have to sell their homes this year in order to pay for care, this subject remains highly emotive. The care funding system is complex, with many levels, from self-funding where you pay for your own care fees, to NHS Continuing Care, where the entire costs are met.”

Between those two ends of the spectrum, there are a number of other levels at which the person in care may be entitled to some contribution towards their care costs.

Clare continued:

“Assessments of the person’s health and medical needs, as well as their financial status, should ascertain the level of help to which they are entitled. However, what we are increasingly finding is that the right assessment hasn’t been done and, even if it has, it might not have been carried out correctly or adequately, and that further assessments have failed to be done as the person’s condition has deteriorated. Where this is the case, the person in care, or their family, may be able to challenge the funding decision.”

Are Your Elderly Relatives Being Ripped Off?

Clare points out that if the finding of the review body is that the person ought to have been entitled to NHS Continuing Care, they may be able to recover some or all of the money spent on care fees, even if the patient themselves has died. In one case alone Shacklocks was able to reclaim over £40,000 in care home fees.

Clare said:

"His daughter told us that the Local Authority had carried out an assessment of her father's care needs and financial status and had decided that, although he was eligible to receive a contribution towards care fees, he also had to pay a proportion from his own assets."

Shacklocks took up the case and after investigating her father's circumstances, the Local Authority assessments that had been carried out, and his medical condition, it was clear that the pensioner had a high level of health care needs. After lodging a successful application for a review of his funding position, the independent review panel agreed that her father's health care needs should have been funded through NHS Continuing Care and he should not therefore have been required to pay any contribution.

Clare concluded:

"This situation is much more common than many people think and shows that it is very worth while seeking professional help."

If you would like advice on any aspect of care funding issues please contact Clare on tel: 01623 423073.

Ends

Notes for Editors:

Shacklocks is a business committed to valuing lifetime relationships with clients. The firm provides legal, financial and investment advice to businesses and private clients and was established over 150 years ago.

Shacklocks holds the prestigious Lexcel accreditation, awarded by the Law Society only to firms demonstrating high levels of quality, client care and management. It currently has a staff of 70 people, including nine partners. Shacklocks has been featured in the legal 500 annual survey of the top UK law firms for the last five years and has seven offices throughout the East Midlands. The firm's Managing Partner is Martin Fallows who can be contacted at martinf@shacklocks.co.uk or on 07872 339718. If you would like an image to accompany this story or an interview with a lawyer experienced in business legal issues please contact Kim Peatfield. We are also happy to discuss feature ideas on other law related issues and provide specialists, comments, statistics and advice on forthcoming legislation.

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