



# LIFE TIMES

**TO VACCINATE  
OR NOT TO  
VACCINATE**

**- THAT IS THE QUESTION...**

Covid causes rise in child dispute cases as  
separated parents can't agree



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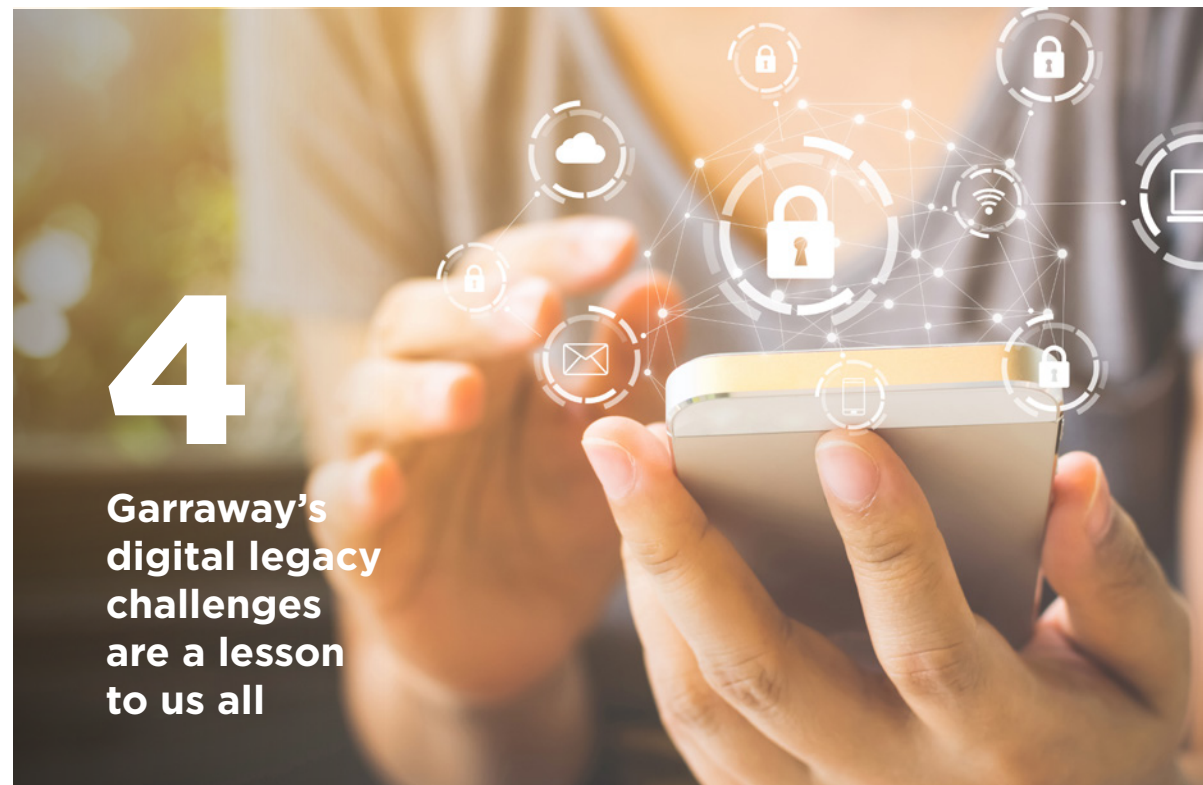


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As the country continues to make strides with the lifting of national restrictions and the advancement of the vaccination programme here and across the world, there are definitely reasons to feel more optimistic.

Half way through 2021 and it is thankfully a very different picture to this time last year with many sectors of the economy feeling more confident about the future. The housing market is booming as people 'race for space', and consumer spending is up. Our team is here to support you in life and business as we move forwards to a brighter summer and beyond.

From auditing and protecting your digital assets and the importance of an LPA, to navigating childcare arrangements now more people are working from home. From removing executors from a will, to buying a rural property, we bring you a round-up of insightful and informative content to help you navigate the opportunities and challenges you may be currently facing.

**Victoria Tester**  
Managing Director  
- Life and Business



# Garraway's digital legacy challenges are a lesson to us all

**Many have recently empathised with TV's Kate Garraway as she publicly recounted the struggles of her husband Derek Draper in his battle against COVID-19. As if his health challenges weren't enough, she has spoken out about the additional difficulty of getting access joint funds whilst he was in hospital.**

With most of our valued information, records and assets online, keeping them in the hands of those we trust has never been more important. With the average person holding 70-80 passwords, this raises an important question for us all - how do we manage our digital legacy, especially in the event of ill health?

## Safeguarding our digital legacy

In the midst of a global pandemic, it's important to be prepared should you suddenly be struck down with ill health. Safeguarding our digital legacy can be done in four simple steps:

1. taking inventory of your digital assets and devices;
2. securing your passwords;
3. making decisions about your digital assets.
4. providing instructions for handling your digital assets

Our digital assets become the legacy we own, and protecting them is a vital task. Should the worst happen, it's important that loved ones have access to be able to complete transactions or stop payments on your behalf. More crucially, it can help mitigate some of the stress that a loved one may feel if struggling emotionally with your ill health. Protecting your digital legacy can mean also protecting your loved ones from significant administrative challenges.

## Take stock of your digital assets

We all have a huge amount of digital assets that are expanding on a yearly basis. This could be our Netflix or Amazon accounts, bank accounts, social media profiles, and cryptocurrency accounts such as Bitcoin. Our entire lives are going virtual - so it's becoming increasingly important that we safeguard our digital legacy.

This starts with taking stock of our digital inventory - making a note of exactly what we have online.

So how can we do that? It starts with conducting a review of our digital assets. We should examine not only the sentimental but also the potential monetary value that our digital assets now hold. For example, Crypto and

PayPal accounts are likely to hold real monetary value and similarly, intellectual property held electronically within books, videos and poetry could provide beneficiaries with significant financial gains.

On the other hand, family photos held within a Dropbox account or social media pages are much more likely to hold sentimental significance.

Since the pandemic, more of our banking assets have shifted further online. ATMs are reducing in number; and many physical branches have closed. Reduced access to physical banks means that the need to protect our digital assets is even more pertinent in a world where we conduct a lot of our transactions virtually. In the case of Kate Garraway, having joint accounts meant that one party could not access funds without authorisation of the partner. Had a schedule been kept of what passwords were held and for what, it could have protected her from what was inevitably a very stressful situation.

## What happens if a loved one passes away without safeguarding digital assets?



At present there are a number of legal 'grey areas' surrounding digital asset legacy planning and only recently has this become more common to include in a will. There is a real need for clearer guidance and an update in the law surrounding digital assets will be required in the near future. However, until that time, those writing and distributing a will should take caution.

## Provide instructions for handling your digital assets

However, no matter whether it is sentimental or financial gains that digital assets could provide, ensuring that clear instruction is provided can help to ensure that they are catered for accordingly. It

is wise to securely store a digital assets log that provides the access details of all accounts, or use a third-party password genie like Lastpass, along with a clear indication of what action is to be taken with each asset. However, individuals should exercise caution in doing so to ensure that they are not breaching the terms and conditions of the service provider.

If in the event of a bereavement, executors have a duty to maximise and administer an individual's estate, but accessing online accounts without formal written permission in the will could mean that they are in breach of the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Being an executor isn't just about realising the assets of a will, executors often have a moral duty to fulfil the wishes of the deceased to the best of their ability and knowledge. If an executor doesn't

have the correct skill set to manage digital assets, it can cause huge amounts of stress and in turn, if proper instruction isn't given to the executor, digital assets can be lost completely. Therefore, it is important to nominate a 'tech savvy' executor to manage the distribution of the digital asset element of a will - failing to fulfil the task competently could open executors up to personal liability claims from beneficiaries. It is also not uncommon to have more than one executor, who could be chosen for specific tasks based on their proficiency.

Unfortunately, before more formal guidance is available, we are likely to see an increase in problems caused by unclear or incomplete instructions regarding the legacy of digital assets.

Garraway's struggles are a lesson to us all and her challenges can help us all to realise that taking a safeguarding approach to digital assets is a necessary activity for every individual, young or old. Following the four steps means that we can take active measures to protect our digital legacy, for now and the future. This process isn't a one-time event - it's now an ongoing endeavour that we all must undertake.

[Watch our webinar which takes a look at this important subject](#)

For further advice on protecting your digital assets contact

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# ESCAPING CITY LIFE

## Our top tips for buying a rural property

**The pandemic has caused a shift in people's perspectives when it comes to their home. As a result, having access to green space and more square footage has become top of the priority list, meaning people are now looking to the British countryside for their next big move. Moreover, research even suggests London's population could drop over the coming years as a result.**

With this in mind, what do those looking to swap the Big Smoke for country living need to know?

### Staying connected

Remote locations often lack the same level of connectivity that people take for granted in urban settings. Therefore, for those who rely on technology for work, or day-to-day life in general, this could be a considerable issue. Consequently, homeowners should check the status of essential utilities before making a decision, including:

**Water and drainage connections**

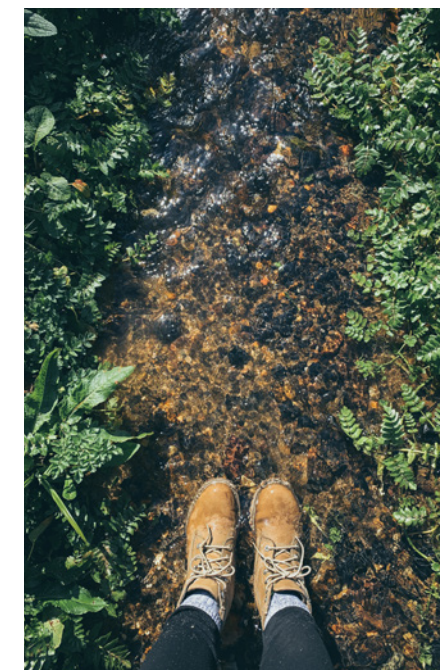
**Energy supply infrastructure**

**Mobile signal strength**

**High-speed internet availability**

### Not all roads are the same

Although most roads in the UK are adopted, which means they are maintained by the local authority, remote rural properties may be served by private tracks or unadopted roads.



For example, private tracks are maintained by the homeowner or a group of neighbours, which could lead to disputes over who is responsible for tasks such as repairing or even gritting the road. Therefore it is important to understand who is legally responsible for the access, your ability to enforce those obligations and any costs associated with it before you buy.

### Get to know the location

If a property is located within a conservation area, or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, there may be restrictions on the alterations that you can make to the property. Therefore, if isolated bliss is what you are after, information about potential development schemes in the area is going to be important.

Most importantly, knowing the location and associated restrictions beforehand could prove an important cost saving exercise in the purchasing journey. Your solicitors will be able to provide guidance around any planning designations, pre-existing covenants or proposed development before you buy.

### The price isn't always right

As a result of an increasing number of people looking to buy homes in rural settings, listing prices could become inflated as sellers try to take advantage of the rise in desirability. By building relationships with local selling agents, you can receive alerts on properties before they come to market and hopefully steal a march on any other interested parties.

### Test the waters

If an area seems ideal but there are still feelings of hesitation, renting first can be a simple solution. That way you can get a feel of the location, and identify both the positives and the negatives, without having to make a long-term financial commitment to the purchase of a property.

### Find the right support

Solicitors specialising in rural conveyancing are a vital asset to have when purchasing a country property. By assessing the property with a practical eye, they can help to unearth any legal issues early on, ensuring homeowners avoid any unexpected bills or responsibilities in the future.

In conclusion, whether it's a farm, country cottage, or plot of land, understanding the ins and outs of the area and the property is an essential step in securing the rural dream.

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# Can you remove an executor from a will?

**When an executor is dragging their feet in progressing the estate administration, but refusing to stand down, it can be extremely frustrating for beneficiaries who are to inherit from a person's estate.**

Here we outline five top tips for dealing with this issue, particularly where an executor named in the will has not yet taken a grant.

## 1. Act early

As soon as you are notified that you are a beneficiary, start making enquiries of the executor. These enquiries may include asking for details of the legacies left to you (or a copy of the will) and confirmation of when the executor intends to apply for probate. Engaging early with the executor can help to identify if unnecessary delays are likely to occur at an early stage.

## 2. Where there's a will there's a way

Where an executor is in possession of the deceased's will, and simply will not divulge the information in it, provide a copy or submit it to the probate registry to apply for probate, you can issue a subpoena ordering the executor to deliver up the original will to the probate registry.

If the executor fails to comply with the subpoena, they will be in contempt of court. This can then form grounds for asking the probate registry to 'pass over' their entitlement to take a grant and allow another appropriate person to step in and take on the role of executor.

## 3. Next step... citation

If an executor is refusing to apply for a grant to administer an estate, there is a process by which an application can be made to the probate registry for an order requiring the executor to take a grant. This is known as the citation procedure.

Once a caveat is in place, a draft citation application is made by the 'citor' (person seeking to force the executor to take the grant) and is lodged with the probate registry (together with payment of the £4 fee and a draft order).

This is then served on the 'citee' (the executor) and the citee then has eight days from the date of service to enter an 'appearance' (explanation of their position) at the probate registry.

If an appearance is not entered then the citee can be required to enter one within a set time, or the citor can apply for the grant themselves. Similarly, if an appearance is entered by the citee, but they still fail to apply for the grant, the citor can apply for an order to be made to them instead. This is a good tool to have in your armoury should you be trying to persuade an executor to take a grant and progress the estate administration.



## 4. Push to stand down

Where concerns have arisen about the executor's ability to fulfil their duties, or their handling of the estate administration prior to taking out a grant, then you could request that they "renounce" their position.

If they have been carrying out actions as an executor (known as 'intermeddling') then they are not able to renounce, but they can still agree to step down. It will still require a court order to remove them but, if this is done with consent, it is a relatively quick process. If they won't agree to step down then a formal application for their removal/passing over of their entitlement to the grant can be made.

It is always preferable to try and get the executor to agree to stand down as executor in the first instance. A letter detailing your concerns and requesting their agreement to stand down, perhaps with the threat of a court or probate registry application if they continue not to co-operate, is a good first step and can also be used as evidence in court if required later down the line.

## 5. Seek legal advice

Wherever you have growing concerns regarding unnecessary delays by executors, it is advisable to seek legal advice at an early stage to understand what you can do and the likely costs involved. Often, the earlier action is taken the quicker matters can move forward and the estate be administered.



[Take a look at our frequently asked questions on estate administration](#)

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# What rights do grandparents have?



**The relationship between a grandparent and a grandchild is unlike any other. It can offer a level of support and understanding that can't be found with other relatives and is often a vital part of a child's upbringing.**

Unfortunately, in the UK, grandparents do not have automatic rights to see their grandchildren. However, if you're a grandparent and are currently being prevented from seeing your grandchildren then there are options available. Here we explain how you can maintain access and keep the relationship going.

## How do I get to see my grandchildren?

The most common reason for grandparents not to be able to see their grandchildren is relationship breakdown. This could be between a grandparent and their children, or between the grandchildren's parents. Either way, the separation can be upsetting for the grandparents and the grandchildren.

## Speak to their parents

Before turning to legal action you should first try and speak to the parent that is preventing contact with your grandchildren. By having an honest conversation, the parent may begin to change their mind about access. Just remember that having a quick chat is unlikely to cause an immediate change of attitude, so this may need several conversations. Therefore, it's vital not to threaten legal action after only one or two conversations, as this could increase tensions unnecessarily.

## Mediation

If initial conversations don't go to plan, then mediation might be a good route to try, whether this is with a professional or another family member. Only after these options have failed should you consider making an application to the court.

## Child arrangements order

You can ask the court for permission to apply for a court order – unfortunately, grandparents don't have the same automatic right to go straight in and apply for a court order in the same way that parents do. Thankfully, family courts do recognise the importance and valuable role that grandparents can play in their grandchildren's lives so it's likely that permission will be granted to allow you to make the application for a child arrangements court order for contact.

The child arrangements order will determine who your grandchildren will have contact with and for how long. [You can read more about child arrangement orders generally in our guide to making child arrangements during a divorce or separation.](#)



## What if my grandchildren's parents break the child arrangement order?

If you have obtained a child arrangements order to see your grandchildren, and their parent does not adhere to this order, then you can return the matter to court and request that the order is enforced.

## Will a change in my grandchildren's circumstances change my grandparent's rights?

If there has been a change of circumstances, such as parental separation or the death of one or both of their parents, unfortunately, the same provisions still apply - no matter how harsh this may seem.

## Getting help with seeing your grandchildren

Family breakdowns can be emotional and difficult for everyone involved. However, what is usually overlooked is the emotional distress caused by a loss of the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren.

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# The new 95% mortgage scheme

**“During the pandemic the number of lenders offering 95% mortgages fell to almost zero”**

## How does it work?

Billed as a way to give prospective buyers access to the housing market, the new scheme officially launched on April 19, primarily aimed at first time buyers. With property prices only set to rise in many parts of the country, property ownership was out of reach for many renters, with lenders requiring big deposits. The scheme is partly guaranteed by the government to encourage banks and building societies to offer more products with just a 5% deposit required on a property with a value up to £600,000. But buyers should go in with their eyes wide open

## Who is eligible?

The scheme, which is only available in England at the moment, is aimed at first time buyers purchasing a home costing up to £600,000. It is not available for those purchasing a buy-to-let property or second home. There are also some restrictions on new build houses and flats and borrowers can't have an interest in any other property.

## What products are available?

During the pandemic the number of lenders offering 95% mortgages fell to almost zero. In March 2020 there were nearly 400 products on the market. Since the launch there has been a steady stream of new products entering the market again, both inside and outside the scheme and the market is confident that this will continue and buyers are recommended to shop around.

## The pitfalls

Whilst this good news for people who may not otherwise have been able to get a foot on the property ladder, there is concern that some buyers may be paying higher interest rates on new loans than they would be if they had a larger deposit.

There is also concern that the guarantee could prompt increases in house prices, meaning future generations having to borrow more.

It is important to remember that when a lender offers a 95% mortgage, it is going to do so against the property's value and not its price. Therefore buyers should be aware that their hard earned deposit still may not be enough if the property is valued at less than the advertised price.

This scheme does not protect buyers against negative equity and with a 95% mortgage, just a small drop in the value of the home could drop a homeowner into negative equity which can make moving house tricky or finding another deal when the current one ends.

For further information contact

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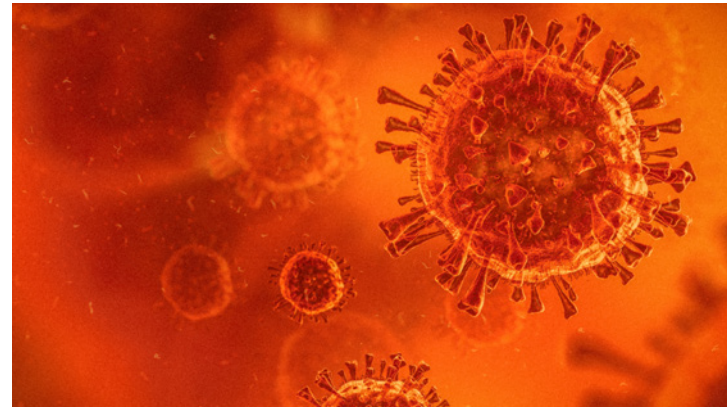
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# TO VACCINATE OR NOT TO VACCINATE - THAT IS THE QUESTION...



With the right approach, most of these issues can be dealt with so that there is a mutually agreed resolution. However, one area which always provokes debate and can be controversial, is the issue of vaccination. This is not new. Historically it is a subject which gets frequent media attention, given that the main thrust of it is - 'what is in the child's best interest?' Two parents with parental responsibility can have completely opposing views.

If the parents can't agree, then one of them can make an application to the court for a Specific Issue order, so the court will have the final say. This is sometimes unpalatable, given that effectively a decision about one's own child is given to the state to make.

There is however, specific case law in this area, which the courts adopt for guidance. In the case of *M V H* (Children represented by their Children's guardian) [2020] EWFC 93, the judgment of the case makes it clear that in instances where parents disagree on vaccinating their children, the court is likely to view vaccination as in the child's best interest, and make an order in favour of the child receiving the vaccine, if it is approved for children/on the NHS vaccination schedule.

It was also noted in the none legally binding comments from the judge that if the COVID vaccine is approved for use in children, then the court is likely to view it as being in the child's best interest also.

As life starts to move slowly back to normal, it may mean that being vaccinated is a requirement to do 'normal' things, such as travel, so we may see more of these disputes arise.



**As family lawyers, at the beginning of the pandemic, we saw a significant number of cases relating to children disputes, where COVID was a real obstacle for separated parents who were sharing care of children. For example, if one parent was living with their elderly parents, there would inevitably be worry about a child moving between households and transmitting the virus, or a child would maybe have symptoms, meaning the self-isolation period would prevent them from seeing the other parent.**

There have also been issues around making travel plans; if one parent wants to consider a holiday abroad, the other parent may be reticent about the child having COVID tests, or having to quarantine unexpectedly.

**“COVID was a real obstacle for separated parents who were sharing care of children”**

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# SHARP RISE IN EQUAL-SHARE CHILD ARRANGEMENT REQUESTS

**Since the pandemic began, we have seen an increase in requests for [childcare arrangements](#) allowing for equal care of children from separated families.**

This rise is likely due to the widespread introduction of agile working, with the flexibility this brings providing separated parents with more time to take on equal childcare responsibilities.

Now that COVID-19 has proven that many roles do not need to be office-based, remote working looks to be the future for a large number of businesses. As such, children are now able to spend an increased amount of time with both parents, causing 'shared care' to more literally mean 'equal care'; something that wasn't possible for many working parents pre-pandemic.

All these things considered, it's no surprise that we've seen an uplift in requests from parents wanting to change existing arrangements, as well as most new agreements being approached in a more equal manner.

The pandemic has altered the way we live and work and there are positive outcomes. The move from office to home-based working means children can more easily spend time with both parents.

Putting the needs and wishes of the children first when divorcing or separating provides a solid foundation for most agreements and this shift is good news for both children and parents alike.

Many couples that have reached an agreement may now be prompted to revisit their current child arrangements to reflect their new ways of working. Active and equal involvement from both parents where possible is suggested for the benefit of the children, and we encourage separated couples to reflect on what arrangement is best for their children, in light of the new circumstances we are all living in. Now is the time to seize the opportunity to make positive changes.

## **Making or reviewing existing child arrangements**

Our [step-by-step](#) guide explains the process and the approaches available when making child arrangements if you're going through, or have gone through, a [divorce or separation](#).

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**“we encourage separated couples to reflect on what arrangement is best for their children, in light of the new circumstances we are all living in”**





## Meet the team

# Getting to know Dipika...

**The team has recently recruited family law expert Dipika Mistry who joins us as a legal director.**

Dipika joins the firm from Wallace Robinson and Morgan, and prior to that she was a partner in a niche family practice in Birmingham.

Dipika has been dealing with often complex family law cases throughout her career relating to separation, divorce, financial remedy and children and so brings with her a combination of experience, empathy, and integrity aiming to achieve the best outcome for her clients.

### **What attracted you to Shakespeare Martineau?**

I was keen to work in a full service firm with a national reputation for excellence, but most importantly a firm with a modern, positive culture which values its people and promotes collaboration. This has become even more important during the pandemic as the legal profession has adapted to so many changes.

I'm positive Shakespeare Martineau's progressive and innovative approach will be a win-win formula, as I will be supported to achieve my ambitions to provide extensive quality family law advice, which in turn will inevitably provide my clients with exceptional service.

### **What do you find exciting about your area of expertise?**

I often meet my clients when they are feeling at their most vulnerable and anxious about their future. I listen really carefully to understand their situation, worries and ambitions for themselves and their families, and work with them to achieve their new independent life by getting them the financial outcomes they deserve, whilst taking them through the emotional journey of separation and divorce. As well as advising on technical legal matters, I get to see my clients grow a strong sense of purpose and confidence as they start their next chapter. It is very positive.

I also advise on the complexities of child arrangements, and as a parent myself of three daughters, I understand the absolute priority my clients will place on the well-being of their children, and ensure they can keep this in focus in spite of them dealing with their own personal issues with the breakdown of their relationship.

### **What do you hope to achieve while working at Shakespeare Martineau?**

I have lived in Solihull for 20 years, and been working with clients from Solihull and Warwickshire for the last five years. I feel I understand the needs and desires of people who live in this area, and am looking forward to increasing Shakespeare Martineau's reach and presence in the region, and beyond to provide quality legal services.

**“I’m really excited about joining Shakespeare Martineau. The firm’s regional and national reputation in family law is excellent and being a part of a firm with such ambitious and exciting growth plans for the future was a heady combination. The warm welcome from my new colleagues, even virtually, has been wonderful and I’m looking forward to getting started.”**

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# The importance of a Lasting Power of Attorney

**Many families are dealing with the devastating effects of COVID-19, which can be further complicated further by the lack of legal protection in place.**

In her recent documentary, Kate Garraway opened up about the financial struggles she was facing as a result of the absence of a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon situation. While many people think to put a will in place, which takes legal effect after the will-maker dies, LPAs can sometimes be forgotten.

For further advice on any aspects of LPAs contact

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## What is a Lasting Power of Attorney?

An LPA is a powerful document that is prepared in advance and is invoked when an individual loses mental capacity as a result of an accident or an illness. Having one prepared safeguards personal wishes and, most importantly, allows a trusted family member or friend to make important decisions on the donor's behalf.

Secondly, an LPA for financial affairs can also be used if a donor requires temporary assistance with financial or property affairs in their absence, such as a spell in hospital or a stay abroad.

As an LPA is a sensitive and complex document that lasts for the entire lifetime of the donor, it is best to seek the help of a professional when writing one, and ensure that this is kept under regular review.

## What is the role of a Lasting Power of Attorney?

Anyone who agrees to act as an attorney for an individual needs to fully understand the role and what their role and duties will be. Our handy blog sets out [guidance for attorneys acting under a lasting power of attorney](#).

## When should I arrange Lasting Powers of Attorney?

Regardless of health, everyone should consider LPAs. These can be written for anyone from the age of 18 and typically take eight to 10 weeks to process. Accidents and illness can affect people of all ages and backgrounds, so it is advisable not to leave this exercise until you begin to feel unwell or mental capacity starts to become an issue.

## What are the types of Lasting Power of Attorney?

There are two types of LPA; one for property and financial affairs, and another for health and welfare. If required, different attorneys can be appointed for each and in the event something happens to an attorney, a replacement can be appointed.

Although these are separate documents, it is highly recommended that the two are prepared and registered at the same time to ensure that any necessary decisions can be taken by the donor's family, and to ensure that all assets are accessible.

[Read more frequently asked questions on powers of attorney.](#)

## The consequences of not having a Lasting Power of Attorney

In the event the donor loses mental capacity, and does not have an LPA in place, loved ones will be required to apply for the right to manage their financial and health affairs through the court. Consequently, taking this matter to court can often be a lengthy and costly process.

Therefore, setting up an LPA whilst capacity is present can prevent loved ones from additional stress during a difficult time.





# Best Companies

## the results are in!

Shakespeare Martineau has been ranked one of the **top 10 law firms to work for by Best Companies**, as well as 58 in the top 100 Midlands companies and top 50 in the large London companies.

**Ranked 10 in  
Top 20 law firms**

**Ranked 58 in  
Top 100 Midlands  
companies**

**Ranked 42 in Top  
75 large London  
companies**

The **'Best Companies Lists'** recognise business' commitment to employee engagement and positive culture and are the highest regarded league tables for great places to work. Rankings are produced based on an independent and anonymous survey of people within the business. Shakespeare Martineau was also accredited with 'outstanding' levels of engagement with the survey.

“

**This is absolutely fantastic news, particularly as it's our first year entering the rankings. Our people make and drive our business forward and we know that by having a great work culture we attract and retain the best talent, which in turn provides the best service and outcomes for our clients.**

**It's great to see our positive passionate culture reflected in the listings. The insights we've gained from the B-Heard survey alongside our own regular internal Pulse feedback helps us keep our commitment to continuous improvement, as we strive to be one of the most empowering and inclusive workplaces in the UK.”**



**Ben Buckton,**  
chief marketing and  
people officer at  
Shakespeare Martineau





# STEP into Platinum

**Shakespeare Martineau has been awarded the STEP Platinum Employer Partner accreditation, the highest of three accreditation levels awarded under the STEP Employer Partnership Programme.**

Founded in 1991, STEP is the global professional association for practitioners who specialise in family inheritance and succession planning. STEP works to improve public understanding of the issues families face in this area and promotes education and high professional standards among its members.

STEP members help families plan for their futures, from drafting wills to issues surrounding international families, protection of the vulnerable, family businesses and philanthropic giving. Full STEP members, known as TEPs, are internationally recognised as experts in their field, with proven qualifications and experience.

To achieve platinum accreditation, a firm must demonstrate that their employees are encouraged to share knowledge and to learn from others, creating a positive work and learning environment. The importance of learning and development is championed from the top and cascaded throughout the organisation.

On awarding Shakespeare Martineau the accreditation, Trent Weber, Senior Manager Employer Partnership at STEP, said:

**“Shakespeare Martineau is to be commended on an excellent application which was detailed, thorough, and demonstrated extensive learning and development provision and good communications, with a supportive leadership and positive work and learning culture.”**



## Going for gold!

**Last year** we launched Feefo (independent market research) across our **Wealth** teams.

Our goal for **2020** was to hit **50 reviews**, while **maintaining a score of 4.5 and above**. Our **current rating is 4.8!**

Maintaining a score of 4.5 or above means **we've been accredited the Gold Trusted Service Award!**

**A big thank you to our clients for leaving reviews some of which have been wonderful and really reflect our passion for delivering a trusted client service.**





Working with organisations of all sizes, the firm delivers a broad range of specialist legal services and has particular expertise across areas including but not limited to: energy, education, banking & finance, healthcare, investment funds, manufacturing, agriculture, family business, Islamic finance, later living, social housing and real estate. Shakespeare Martineau also provides services for families and private clients.

The firm's purpose is clear;  
to unlock potential, and its ambitions  
are unlimited; aiming to become one  
of the most admired **top 30 law firms**  
by 2025.

Shakespeare Martineau has been  
listed in Best Companies 2021 for top  
20 law firms, top 100 Midlands and  
top 75 large London businesses.

With more than 880 people, Shakespeare Martineau has offices in Lincoln, Nottingham, Leicester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Stratford-upon-Avon, Solihull, London, Milton Keynes and Glasgow.

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