

## The Barrister Broker - reducing your legal costs



We've had a lot of wellie action going on in the Burton-Lawrence household the last couple of months. I was touched that my wife got us Family membership for the National Trust for us and my two girls for Christmas so we can all do interesting things when the girls come to stay with us. Thank goodness I had got the girls a pair of wellies each for Christmas – much needed on our outings at the moment.

But back to the world of The Barrister Broker - and how I can help you

significantly reduce your legal costs!

In the last edition, I focused on "civil law" disputes and how individuals and businesses representing themselves can greatly

With the girls at Chartwell

improve their chances of achieving a successful outcome, whilst at the same time keeping their costs to a minimum, by using a Barrister to assist them with their case. In this edition, my focus is on contesting a will.

Losing a loved one is a traumatic and emotional experience at the best of times but particularly stressful when you or another party contests the Will or Estate. Contesting a Will or Estate is becoming increasingly common. If you feel the need to contest a Will, perhaps because you think you have not been provided for, or if someone else is contesting a Will that you are dealing with, getting the right legal advice as early as possible is crucial.

Going direct to a Barrister specialising in contested probate is without doubt the most expert and cost-effective legal route you can take. This can be a highly complex area of the law and therefore going to anyone other than a genuine expert in this area would be unwise.

The need to contest a Will can arise in a number of different circumstances, for example:

- The deceased should have made extra provision for you.
- Someone is claiming they should have been left extra money or property in the Will.
- The Will is lost.
- The deceased did not have mental capacity when making the Will.
- The deceased had been manipulated into making a Will which he or she would not normally have made.
- There is a dispute, either with or between the executors.

I provide direct access to Barristers who are able to quickly and efficiently determine whether you have a claim, and if so, your likely chances of success. Regular readers of my features will know that by coming to me, the fees of the Barristers I work with are charged primarily on a "fixed fee" basis so you know in advance how much it will cost. The choice to proceed is yours.

I once had a client who had been advised by her solicitor that it would be in her interests to commence a court action challenging her late father's Will. The client wanted a second opinion from a Barrister and contacted me. I subsequently arranged for a Barrister to read the solicitor's file and to meet the client in conference to go through the case. The advice given by the Barrister to the client was that there was no reasonable prospect of success due to evidence contained within the file. The Barrister also advised the client of the danger of a court awarding costs against the losing party when bringing a claim that stands little or no chance of success. In this example, by going direct to the legal expert, the client has saved potentially thousands of pounds by not commencing a court action, which, in addition to lawyers' costs would have risked costs being awarded against her for bringing a claim that had no reasonable prospect of success.

***It won't cost you anything to speak to me but I could end up saving you thousands!***

Call me on **01732 866 562** or email me at **russell@thebarristerbroker.com**

*Until next time...*

*Russell Burton-Lawrence*