



The right care starts with the right advice

## Financial and legal advice is essential

Planning ahead can reduce additional worry and stress at a time of crisis. Financial and legal advice from someone who understands the later life care and benefit system is essential. It can save money and make sure that those caring for you take into account your wishes if they are having to make decisions in your best interests.

While you are able to manage your own affairs it is important to consider that in the future you may not be able to make arrangements or decisions for yourself (at any age) as an accident or illness can affect our ability to make decisions and may lead to someone else having to help or even make some decisions on your behalf in the future.

The ability to understand and make a decision when it needs to be made is called 'mental capacity'. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) is a law that protects and supports those who can't make some or all decisions for themselves. It has a 'Code of Practice' for those who are assessing someone's capacity and supporting them to make decisions.

## Have you thought about?

- Who would manage your finances or health decisions if you are no longer able to?
- Do you have an Enduring or Lasting Power of Attorney? What does this mean?
- Have you made a will or set out your wishes for your care, property or family?

Please don't assume, as many do, that if anything happens to you your partner/spouse/children will be able to 'manage your affairs' for you, they may not be allowed to if there is no legal provision in place.

## Relative Matters Ltd - Independent consultancy for later life

Chris Moon-Willems has over 30 years' experience of working for the NHS and Social Services within senior management roles and is a registered Social Worker. Having specialised in the care of older people early on in her professional training, she is now recognised as an expert voice on elderly care.



Chris also holds the Society of Later Life Advisors (SOLLA) care advice standard, having been one of the first people in the UK to achieve the award.

The SOLLA Care Advice Standard aims to ensure that people are able to find quality assured information and advice on choosing and paying for adult care quickly and easily. All advisers have satisfied the required criteria, giving peace of mind that the advice you are given is from those who have proven their specialist knowledge. Check out their website SOLLA Care

Chris has been interviewed several times on both national TV and radio, including the BBC.

A published author and regular public speaker, Chris is a Fellow of the Centre for Welfare Reform and both owner and founder of Relative Matters.

Contact us today to see how we can help you

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