

# Care Home Fees - Have You Planned for the Future?

Your home, as it is for most people, is likely to be your biggest asset and the thing which you have worked hardest to acquire. The thought of having to sell your property to pay for care home costs in the future may be something you have never considered. However, we are all now living longer and it is more important than ever to plan for the future and protect your estate.

The average cost of a care home place is £532 per week and for a nursing home place it is £750 per week. Recent research has shown that most people who require residential care need it for 4 years. Therefore, a stay in a care home for this length of time would cost more than £100,000 and a stay in a nursing home would cost more than £150,000.

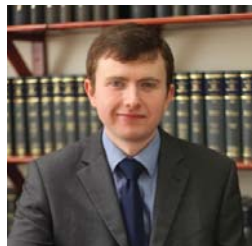
When talking about planning for the future and protecting your assets, it must be said that there is no 'magic fix' that is guaranteed to work. Anybody making such a promise is not being totally honest with you. The rules relating to the payment of care fees are complex and technical.

The government has promised reforms in future but this is not certain and any such reforms are likely to still include a significant financial contribution from anybody who needs care and has the assets to make such contributions. The most recent proposals have suggested a cap on the care element of the charges but not on the residential element of the charges that anybody needing care will have to pay.

The best way of protecting your assets is to act early and seek professional advice from a qualified solicitor. Protecting your property should be undertaken as part of your overall estate planning. Estate planning would normally include Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Inheritance Tax planning as well as ensuring your assets, including your home, are protected.

At Dickinson Parker Hill Solicitors, we have been advising local families for more than 200 years on how they can protect their assets and put their affairs in order. Our solicitors are members of recognised bodies such as the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE) and the Private Client Section of the Law Society and can advise you on the options available to you.

Home visits can be arranged for all matters and we offer free storage for legal documents such as Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and title deeds. If you would like further information please call Mr Michael Prendergast on 01695 574 201 or email him at [mprendergast@dphlaw.co.uk](mailto:mprendergast@dphlaw.co.uk). Further information can also be found at our website [www.dphlaw.co.uk](http://www.dphlaw.co.uk).



Michael Prendergast  
LL.B (Hons) TEP  
Partner  
TEL: 01695 574201



DICKINSON PARKER HILL  
S O L I C I T O R S