

James Alistair Thorne

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dedicated Senior Legal Guardian with over 12 years of experience managing complex cases for incapacitated adults and minors. Proven expertise in navigating the Court of Protection, managing multi million pound estates, and coordinating comprehensive care plans. Committed to upholding the highest ethical standards and ensuring the dignity and safety of every ward through proactive advocacy and meticulous financial administration.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Lead Adult Guardian | Manchester City Council Public Guardian Office | Manchester, UK

Apr 2016 - Present

- Oversee the holistic care and legal advocacy for a specialised caseload of 40 incapacitated adults totalling £4.2M in managed assets.
- Negotiated with healthcare providers to reduce medical expenses for wards by 15% through meticulous insurance auditing.
- Authored and submitted 160+ annual financial and status reports to the Court of Protection with zero instances of rejection.
- Directed a multi-disciplinary team of social workers and nurses to stabilise housing for 12 formerly homeless wards within 6 months.
- Spearheaded a training initiative for new appointees that improved case processing efficiency by 20% across the department.

Professional Deputy | Heritage Estate Services Ltd | Stockport, UK

Aug 2011 - Mar 2016

- Managed the financial portfolios of 15 high-net-worth wards, ensuring long-term fiscal stability and tax compliance.
- Identified and halted three cases of financial exploitation, successfully recovering £85,000 in stolen funds through legal action.
- Coordinated the sale and management of real estate assets valued at £3M, maximising returns for the benefit of the wards.
- Collaborated with legal counsel to resolve 10+ contested guardianship cases through successful mediation and family counselling.
- Streamlined the fiduciary accounting process by implementing automated tracking software, reducing monthly reporting errors by 40%.

Child Advocate & Guardian ad Litem | North West Child Welfare Group | Chester, UK

Jun 2007 - Jul 2011

- Represented the best interests of 50+ foster children in family court hearings, advocating for permanent placement solutions.
- Developed comprehensive life-skills programmes for wards transitioning out of the foster care system at age 18.
- Secured specialised behavioural health services for 20+ children through persistent advocacy with local child welfare agencies.
- Facilitated 15 successful adoptions by coordinating communication between biological parents, foster families, and local authorities.
- Maintained meticulous case files that served as the primary evidence in high-stakes parental rights termination proceedings.

EDUCATION

University of Manchester | Master of Laws (LLM) | Family Law and Policy

Sept 2005 - May 2007

University of Leeds | Bachelor of Science | Social Work

Aug 2001 - May 2005

SKILLS

Mental Capacity Act Knowledge, Court of Protection Reporting, Legal Documentation, Rights Advocacy, Regulatory Compliance, Estate Administration, Fiduciary Accounting, Budgeting & Expense Tracking, Asset Protection, Benefits Coordination (PIP/Universal Credit), Crisis Intervention, Conflict Resolution, Ethical Decision Making, Cross Functional Collaboration, Empathetic Communication

CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Deputy Certification | Office of the Public Guardian (Oct 2012)

Social Work England Registration | Social Work England (May 2014)

LANGUAGES

English (Native)

French (Fluent (C1))

ACTIVITIES

Association of Public Authority Deputies

Active member and guest speaker at annual conferences regarding ethical asset management.

Independent Age Volunteer

Provide pro bono advocacy services for low income elderly residents in Greater Manchester.