

Charity Law

Thursfields
Solicitors

We provide the level of support which the charity needs rather than adopting a “one size fits all” approach.”

Charities are established to meet a very wide range of needs: poverty; ill health, education; religion; amateur sports; community development; arts; science and heritage; need arising from youth, age or disability; environmental issues; racial harmony; equality and diversity; armed forces; police, fire and rescue and life saving services; and animal welfare. They are run by people who are passionate about meeting those needs. We work alongside charity trustees to help the charity fulfil its objectives as effectively as possible.

We have extensive experience in the sector and are able to provide a full range of legal services to charities.

“Each charity is different – some have trustees or employees with relevant professional skills; others do not.”



Setting up a new charity



“Birmingham Botanical Gardens are a unique organisation and we require advice on a very wide range of issues. Thursfields have provided us with a tailor made service and an excellent response to all our needs and we are very pleased to be working with them.”

James Wheeler, Chief Executive, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Birmingham Botanical Gardens – a well known and well loved education and recreational charity in the heart of Birmingham. We are the retained solicitors for the Gardens providing a wide range of charity and commercial legal services. We are also partnering with them with a view to raising their legacy income.

www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk



Why choose our lawyers?

- **Expert advice** - our team has in depth expertise in charity law and practice as it relates to all forms of charity. Whether the governing documents are a constitution, rule book, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association, Charity Commission Scheme or Act of Parliament, they will be able to advise fully. One member of the team has been working in the sector for over 25 years and another for over 14 years.
- **Breadth of experience** - our team includes property, employment, corporate, commercial and dispute resolution experts who understand the particular needs of our charity clients.
- **Our wills, trusts and probate team** works with charities and individuals to facilitate tax efficient gifts to charities.
- **Personal service** - we take the time to properly understand the issues facing the charity. Where it is convenient to you, we are very happy to meet charity representatives before suggesting a solution. We are committed to the sector and want to see your charity succeed.
- **Informed advice to aid informed decision making** - by taking the time to listen to the charity trustees, we are able to help you identify the key issues and priorities. Our advice is practical and pragmatic. We give you the information and range of options which enable you to make decisions in fulfilment of your obligations as charity trustees.

“Jenny Smith advised us on and co-ordinated the establishment of the charity to provide a robust and appropriate legal structure. She has demonstrated a passion and commitment to helping Woundcare4Heroes succeed and grow and is a trusted advisor of the charity.”

Captain Claire Stephens
- **Founder, Trustee and Chief Executive Officer of Woundcare4Heroes**”

Woundcare4Heroes is a charity established to develop a national single point of contact and network of trauma aftercare complex wound management services to support the NHS in providing lifelong support and care for those discharged from the Armed Forces. Our lawyers advised and acted on the establishment of the charity and continue to provide legal advice to Woundcare4Heroes.
www.woundcare4heroes.org.uk/

Your Legal Team



Jenny Smith
Head of Charities
Sector

Jenny has acted for various types of charity over the last 14 years including churches, hospices, alms houses, pre-schools, community clubs, schools, grant making charities and charitable property trusts. She has also acted for other “not for profit” organisations including community interest companies and for trading companies established by charities.



Steve Pitts
Director

Steve’s particular expertise is in court of protection matters, inheritance tax planning, wills, trusts, lasting powers of attorney and the administration of estates. His technical knowledge is invaluable in establishing and advising unincorporated charities established as trusts. Steve is a member of the Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners (STEP), Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE) and the private client section of the Law Society.



Jane Rudge
Senior Associate
Solicitor

Jane is an experienced commercial solicitor who advises a wide range of commercial and charity clients. She frequently deals with commercial contracts including in relation to joint-ventures, technology and intellectual property. She identifies the risks organisations face in entering into commercial arrangements and advises them on a practical and commercial basis. Jane enjoys using her technical expertise to help charities achieve their objectives.

**For a quote for your
business contact:**

Jenny Smith
on **01905 677052**

or email:
jsmith@thursfields.co.uk

Your Legal Team

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Solicitors



Lisa Kemp
Solicitor

As a specialist employment lawyer, Lisa advises charities on all aspects of employment law ranging from providing HR support to defending tribunal proceedings and negotiating the settlement of disputes. She also supports employers through reorganisations, mergers and restructures. Lisa is sensitive to the clients' values and has experience in advising in relation to volunteers, the national minimum wage and working time implications.



Zoe Perry
Solicitor

Zoe's particular area of expertise is in trusts law. This includes the creation, ongoing administration and winding up of charitable will trusts and lifetime settlements. Zoe also manages charitable foundations created by will. Zoe is a student member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly and the Law Society private client section.



Katie Williams
Solicitor

Katie is an experienced commercial property solicitor. She has substantial experience of advising in relation to property development and management as well as the sale and purchase of non-residential property and land. Through her work acting for banks Katie has experience of secured lending work and has considerable experience in commercial lease transactions for both landlord and tenant clients, both large and small.

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